

Attendance During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

From 8 March 2021, all learners are required to attend school. As such, the arrangements set out in the Attendance Policy will be adhered to. This information and guidance has been developed in line with the latest government guidance to set out the additional measures that have been put in place to support learners' attendance at school.

The Academy will have due regard for the DfE's 'Recording attendance during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak' guidance when recording attendance during the pandemic.

Attendance expectations

From the 8 March 2021, attendance is mandatory for all learners.

From this date, the usual rules on school attendance (as set out in the Attendance Policy) will apply, including:

- Parents' duty to ensure that their child attends school regularly.
- The Academy's responsibility to record attendance and follow up absence, in line with the procedures in the main body of the Attendance Policy.
- The availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices (FPNs) in line with the Local Authority's code of conduct.

The Academy will ensure learners do not attend the school site where they are displaying symptoms of, or have tested positive for, coronavirus, or are quarantining following travel abroad, or are in a household, childcare or support bubble with an individual who is displaying symptoms of, or has tested positive for, coronavirus.

Shielding or self-isolating learners

The Academy will stay up-to-date with all relevant national and local public health advice regarding shielding and self-isolation, communicating any relevant changes to all stakeholders.

Absences relating to learners following clinical and/or public health advice will not be penalised.

Where a learner is unable to attend the Academy because they are complying with clinical and/or public health advice, they will be immediately offered access to remote learning, in line with the Remote Learning Policy.

The Academy will request a copy of a shielding learner's medical letter to confirm their status where necessary.

Where a vulnerable learner is required to self-isolate, the Academy will notify their social worker (if they have one), ensure a method of maintaining contact with the learner, and ensure the learner has access to remote education.

Reluctance to return to school

The Academy will remind parents/carers of their legal duty to ensure their child attends school, and parents/carers will be advised to contact the Academy if they have concerns about their child returning to the Academy.

If a parent/carer raises a concern, a relevant staff member will hold a discussion with the parent/carer to discuss their concerns and provide reassurance on the measures that are in place to reduce risk in the Academy.

Monitoring attendance

The Academy and the Attendance Team will monitor the Academy's attendance rates once the Academy is open to all learners.

Any trends in non-attendance will be identified (e.g. due to anxiety) and measures will be put in place to re-engage affected learners with school attendance.

The Academy will place particular emphasis on supporting the attendance and re-engagement of vulnerable learners, learners at risk of Persistent Absence, and learners who have not engaged regularly with the Academy during the coronavirus pandemic.

The Department for Education, Educational setting status form will be completed on a daily basis, based on the information on the attendance register.

The Academy will use the DfE's list of sub-codes in the management information system (MIS) to record non-attendance related to coronavirus. These are:

- Code X01: Non-compulsory school age pupil not required to be in school
- Code X02: Pupil self-isolating with coronavirus symptoms
- Code X03: Pupil self-isolating due to potential contact with a confirmed case of coronavirus inside the school setting
- Code X04: Pupil self-isolating due to potential contact with a confirmed case of coronavirus outside the school setting

- Code X05: Pupil required to self-isolate as part of quarantine requirement (after arriving in the UK from a non-exempt country or territory)
- Code X06: Pupil not in school because they have been advised specifically by their doctor or public health authority that they are clinically extremely vulnerable and should not attend school
- Code X07: Pupil advised specifically not to attend school as part of restrictions to education set out in government guidance
- Code I01: Non-coronavirus related illness
- Code I02: Illness (confirmed case of coronavirus)

Monitoring and review

This information and guidance will be reviewed in line with any Department for Education and public health updates by the Headteacher and the Senior Education Welfare Officer.