

Coronavirus (COVID-19): attendance expectations from September letter to parents

RE: attendance expectations

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

We expect all pupils to return to school to help minimise, as far as possible, the longer-term impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on their education, wellbeing and wider development. As a parent, it is your duty to ensure your child attends school in the Autumn term.

During the period of partial school closures, the rules around attendance were relaxed; however, the government has now re-enforced mandatory attendance and the usual rules on school attendance will apply.

We understand that there are some exceptions, and if one of the following conditions applies, we would not expect your child to attend school for the government's recommended time period:

- Your child is self-isolating for 10 days because they have symptoms of coronavirus or a positive test result, or they are isolating for 14 days following close contact with someone who has coronavirus
- Your child is required by legislation to self-isolate for two weeks as part of a period of quarantine, e.g. following a holiday abroad to a country that required a quarantine period upon return to the UK
- Your child is being advised to shield due to a rise of the rate of coronavirus in the local area – pupils who have previously been advised to shield should seek medical advice before returning to school
- The school has partially closed due to a local lockdown and your child does not fall into one of the eligible groups to attend

If your child is unable to attend school because they are complying with clinical and/or public health advice, as listed above, we will provide them with access to remote education. Absence will not be penalised if you are following clinical and/or public health advice which we would require evidence of.

All other pupils of compulsory school age must attend school. If your child does not attend school, but they are not following public and/or clinical health advice and no other statutory reason applies, the school may issue a penalty notice for unauthorised absence.

Penalty notices begin with an initial fine of £60, rising to £120 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days. Following failure of these payments, the local attendance officer may decide to prosecute a parent. If so, parents can be fined up to £2,500 or imprisoned for failing to ensure that their child attends school regularly.

We are aware that you and your child may have concerns about returning to school, but we want to reassure you that we have introduced stringent infection control measures to ensure your child's safety. If you want to find out more about the measures in place, these are detailed on the [school website](#).

Additional information to support our [Attendance Policy](#) during COVID 19 has been uploaded to reflect the changes to attendance legislation – this can be accessed via our school website.

If you or your child are worried about the return to school, or you have any questions regarding the contents of this letter, you can contact [name of contact](#) on [telephone number](#) or [email address](#) to discuss these further.

Yours sincerely,