

Attendance FAQs September 2020

Q1 Does my child have to attend school?

A1 Yes - As the rate of coronavirus has decreased since March the Government have now reinstated the laws around school attendance. This means that parents now have a legal duty to ensure that their child attends regularly at school; schools have a statutory duty to record attendance and follow up absence; Local authorities have also been told to resume their system of sanctions (including fixed penalty notices) for absence.

Q2 My child is self-isolating because they have been told to self isolate due to close contact with someone who has coronavirus (through NHS Test and Trace) – What should I do?

A2 You should call your child's Pastoral Leader and explain the circumstances. Your child will not be required to attend school whilst they have been instructed to self-isolate (14 days). Work will be provided through ClassCharts and Google Classroom and your child will be expected to complete this, daily, at home. If there are particular IT issues that prevent this please let the Pastoral Leader know and we will arrange for some support. The DfE requires schools to monitor and follow-up engagement with remote learning.

Q3 My child is required to shield – should they attend?

A3 Shielding was paused on 1 August. Your child should therefore attend school. In the event of a local lockdown requiring shielding to be resumed then your child should continue to shield. Arrangements for school work will be made while the child is at home (see answer to Question 2).

Q4 My child is no longer required to shield but regularly accesses specialist health care

A4 School attendance should be discussed at their next clinical meeting, ideally before the start of term. If the specialist health professionals recommend that your child does not attend school evidence would need to be provided to the school. Arrangements for school work will be made (see answer to Question 2).

Q5 I am anxious about my child returning because they have been shielding/living with someone who is clinically vulnerable/from a BAME backgound/have diabetes/obesity/other

A5 Please contact your child's Pastoral Leader so we can discuss your situation and plan for how risks can be reduced.

Q6 My child has some symptoms of coronavirus – What should I do?

A6 You must inform your child's Pastoral Leader and your child should self-isolate and have a test. If the test is negative and the pupil feels well then they can attend school. If the child tests positive then they should self isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms. They should only return to school if they do not have symptoms other than a cough or loss of sense of smell or taste (anosmia). This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. Arrangements for school work will be made while the child is at home (see answer to Question 2).

Q7 Someone in our household has symptoms of coronavirus

A7 You must inform your child's Pastoral Leader and the household should self-isolate and the person displaying symptoms should get a test. If the test is negative your child can return to school. If the household member tests positive the child should self-isolate for 14 days from when the household member first displayed symptoms. Arrangements for school work will be made while the child is at home (see answer to Question 2).

Q8 My child is required to self-isolate as part of a period of quarantine

A8 Please contact your child's Pastoral Leader so we can discuss your situation. Arrangements for school work will be made while the child is at home (see answer to Question 2).

Q9 I am reluctant and worried about my child returning to school, and whether the right measures are in place to protect him/her. Does my child need to return to school?

A9 Your child must resume their attendance at school with effect from September 2020. Attendance at school is compulsory from this date. We do appreciate that many parents may be worried about their children returning to school, and your child may also be nervous about changes to the school routine and layout. The school has put robust safety measures in place to keep your child safe and reduce the risk in school. You may wish to contact us directly or visit the school website for more information on what these safety measures will look like to reassure yourself and your child.

Q10 My child does not like school and is reluctant to return. When does my child have to return to school?

A10 Your child must resume their attendance at school with effect from September 2020. Attendance at school is compulsory from this date and punitive action may be taken against you, the parent, if your child is not receiving a suitable education, either at school or otherwise. We do appreciate that many parents may be worried about their child returning to school, and your child may also be nervous about changes to the school routine and layout. As above, we have put robust safety measures in place to keep your child safe and reduce the risk in school. You may wish to contact us directly or visit the school website for more information on what these safety measures will look like in order to reassure yourself and your child.

Q11 I don't want my child to return to school. Can I continue to educate him/her at home longer as part of an informal arrangement?

A11 No. If your child normally receives their education from school then they must resume this education through attendance at the school with effect from September 2020.