

Littledean Church of England Primary School
Coronavirus (Covid-19) Addendum to Attendance Policy

Introduction

Missing out on time in school risks all children falling behind their peers. After an extended period out of school it is vitally important that all our children return to school in order to access the educational provision that they are entitled to.

Attendance Expectations

As of September 2020, attendance at school is mandatory for all children, except where statutory exemptions apply in line with the Coronavirus Act 2020. The normal rules and sanctions as outlined Section 444(1) and (1A) of the Education Act 1996 (England) will now be reapplied.

From this point on the usual rules of school attendance apply:

- Parents have a duty to ensure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered at school and they are of compulsory school age;
- Schools have a responsibility to record attendance and follow up absence;
- Schools are able to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with Local Authorities' code of conduct.

At Littledean C of E Primary School we will:

- **Plan** – for full attendance for all children and value this.
- **Communicate** – with all stakeholders the expectations and importance of full attendance.
- **Be Consistent** – set and maintain a culture of high expectations of all within the community.
- **Support** – for those within the community that need additional support to get back into school regularly.
- **Monitor and Improve** – to ensure that the school's high expectations and additional support are having the impact intended.

Statutory Exemptions

In line with the latest guidance there are now a small number of children who will be exempt from mandatory attendance because of the exceptional reasons outlined below:

- Children who are unable to attend school in line with public health advice because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test themselves; or because they are a close contact of someone who has had coronavirus.
- If rates of the disease rise in local areas, there may be occasions where children (or family members) from that area, and in that area only will be advised to shield for this period, whilst the transmission rates remain high and therefore they may be temporarily absent. School will ensure that for these children, education will be provided remotely.

Where children are not able to attend school for either of the reasons above, the absence will not be penalised.

Children or parents demonstrating symptoms of Covid-19

We will remind all within our school community that should a child or member of their family display any symptoms of Covid -19 they must not enter the school grounds.

Parents will inform school by contacting the school office 01594 822171 if their child is ill, and/or displaying symptoms of Covid-19, and is unable to attend school as a result.

Parents should contact NHS 111 online or call 119 to arrange a test. We will regularly remind parents, through our newsletters and Twitter, what to do if they demonstrate symptoms.

We will follow the Public Health England guidance at all times when a parent or child demonstrates signs of Covid-19. Advice and guidance can be obtained by phoning 0300 303 8162 or swhpt@phe.gov.uk.

Children who were previously shielding

From 1st August 2020, shielding advice and guidance for adults and children paused, subject to a continued decline in the community transmission of Covid-19. Children who were previously on this list can now safely return to school as can those who had family members who were shielding.

If the rates of the disease rise on local areas, children who were put on the shielding list may be contacted by government and advised to stay at home and shield during the period of time the rates remain high. The letter that families receive to inform them of this, should be shared with the school.

Local Lockdown

Local Authorities have been delegated the power to enforce a local lockdown, should transmission rates rise. Should the need for this arise the school will follow the guidance from the Local Authority.

Taking the Register

The DfE has created a new category of non-attendance for the academic year 2020/21 to record any child who does not attend because their travel to, or attendance at school would be either:

- contrary to guidance from Public Health England, or Department of Health and Social Care, or
- prohibited by legislation relating to the transmission of Covid-19.

In line with the guidance from the Secretary of state, no parent will be penalised for following official public health guidance for their child not to attend a session.

Registration Codes

From the start of the academic year 2020/21 normal registration codes will apply.

Should any child not attend a session because of either of the two reasons above, then the code X will be used to record their non-attendance. This code will not count as an absence in census data.

If a child tests negative and if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to Covid-19, they can stop self-isolating and return to school. If the child remains unwell following the test (such as with a different illness), then they should be recorded as code I – illness, as would usually be the case. Code X should only be used up until the time of the negative test result.

If a child tests positive, they should continue to 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. Code X should be used for the period of self-isolation until the test. After the child tests positive they should be recorded as code I until they are able to return to school.

If someone in a child's household has symptoms, the household should self-isolate and the member of their household should get a test. If the member of the household tests negative, the child can stop isolating and return to school. Code X should only be used up until the time of the negative test result when the child can return to school.

If the household member tests positive, the child should continue to self-isolate for 14 days from when the member of the household first had symptoms. Code X should be used during this period.

In all cases of self-isolation, we will ask parents to inform us immediately about the outcome of a test.

Monitoring of Attendance

We will continue to monitor attendance at the school by regularly reviewing our registers to identify any children/families whose attendance we are concerned about. The school Family Support Worker may work with the child and parents to establish what the barriers to attendance are and subsequently provide support to overcome them.

If issues with attendance cannot be resolved despite additional support from school, then the school will follow guidance in consultation with the Local Authority Inclusion Officers to determine the next steps which could involve penalties.

September 2020