

Addendum to Attendance Policy - January 2021 Response to COVID-19

This addendum should be read alongside the Academy's current Attendance and Punctuality Policy.

The Department for Education have amended the school attendance guidance for maintained schools, academies, independent schools and local authorities August 2020. For the school year 2020 to 2021, a new category has been added to record instances when a pupil is 'not attending in circumstances relating to coronavirus (COVID-19)'. Code X (not attending in circumstances relating to coronavirus (COVID-19)) is to be used to record absence from sessions where the pupil's travel to or presence at school would conflict with:

- guidance relating to the incidence or transmission of coronavirus (Covid-19) from Public Health England or the Department of Health and Social Care or
- any legislation (or instruments such as statutory directions) relating to incidence or transmission of coronavirus (Covid-19).

In addition, the DFE have agreed to add the following as an addendum to types of absence in respect of not attending in circumstances relating to coronavirus (COVID19):

Coronavirus symptoms:

If your child, or a member of your household, has any of the following symptoms; new and persistent cough, a high temperature or loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell then you must immediately take the following actions:

- Report the reason for absence to school
- Self-isolate
- Arrange a Coronavirus test
- Advise the Academy of the results of that test

Self-isolating - the person with symptoms must self-isolate for 10 days and other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms. If you have tested positive whilst not experiencing symptoms but develop symptoms during the isolation period, you should restart the 10-day isolation period from the day symptoms develop. If you are self-isolating you should not leave your home. This includes going to work/school, going shopping even for medication, going for exercise (this can be done in your garden). You should also not have any visitors.

For the period from 7th January 2021 to 6th February 2021 the Secretary of State for Education has disapplied offences for non-attendance in schools during the Covid-19 outbreak.