



COBHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

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COVID-19 Addendum to Attendance Policy

September 2020

The DfE has asked schools to work with families and local authorities to secure a return to regular school attendance from September 2020. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- Parents/carers' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age;
- Schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- The availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

This means that every child is expected to attend school unless they fall into one of the following groups:

- They are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves or are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19).
- They are under the care of a specialist health professional who does not recommend a return to school.
- There is a local lockdown on the advice of Public Health England which relates specifically to either the home address or school of the pupils attending the school.

1. Cobham Primary School are making every effort to ensure the safety and wellbeing of students and staff in line with Government guidelines - if you have any concerns about your child attending school please contact us.
2. All parents should contact us in the usual way, every day that the child will be absent from school for any reason. Absences will be coded accordingly following DfE guidance. Legal action can still be taken for unauthorised absence.
3. If a pupil is unable to attend school because they are complying with clinical and/or public health advice (as in the 3 identified groups above), we will immediately provide access to remote education via the school Study Hub. Other absences will be dealt with in the usual way and we will be contacting families as needed.
4. Pupils must not come into school if they have symptoms of Covid-19 and in the event of a pupil displaying symptoms of Covid-19, they will be isolated at school away from the school population, and parents will be contacted to collect them as a matter of urgency. In this instance, the child must not return to school until either:

- They have tested negative for Covid-19 (evidence of this test result must be provided upon their return); or
- They have completed a period of 10 days self-isolation in line with government guidelines following a positive Covid-19 test or medical advice.

5. The government has not relaxed the rules on term time holidays from September. The latest guidance states:

‘Many families will want to take a holiday over the summer period, which may involve travelling abroad. As ever, parents should plan their holidays within school and college holidays and avoid seeking permission to take their children out of school during term time.’

Parents should request leave of absence in the usual way by contacting the school in writing. A Penalty Notice can be requested from the Local Authority for unauthorised holiday absence.

This addendum will be updated in the light of any revised government or Public Health Guidance issued or if there are any significant local circumstances which would warrant this.

This addendum may be removed from the policy or amended if government advice changes.

This Addendum is activated on 01 Sept 2020

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