

New National Guidance for Monday 9th November 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

In line with new national guidance that comes into force from Monday 9th November 2020 – I am writing to inform you of the school's attendance policy regarding absence.

It is our duty as an academy to ensure that children attend school daily, even during these very trying times. The new guidance states that children should only be off school, if they are clinically vulnerable and have been informed by their GP or their specialist clinician.

Clinically extremely vulnerable children (Taken from the DfE website)

More evidence has emerged that shows there is a very low risk of children becoming very unwell from coronavirus (COVID-19), even for children with existing health conditions. Most children originally identified as clinically extremely vulnerable no longer need to follow original shielding advice. Parents should be advised to speak to their child's GP or specialist clinician if they have not already done so, to understand whether their child should still be classed as clinically extremely vulnerable.

Those children whose doctors have confirmed they are still clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend education whilst the national restrictions are in place. Schools will need to make appropriate arrangements to enable them to continue their education at home.

Children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, but who are not clinically extremely vulnerable themselves, should still attend education.

Parents of clinically extremely vulnerable children will be receiving a letter shortly confirming this advice.

I appreciate what a worrying time this is for parents and their families, but absences related to COVID19 will only be authorised for the above reason, as well as to those children having to isolate due to track and trace advice, are showing symptoms or are waiting for test results.

In line with the new national guidance from Monday 9th November, children being kept off by parents / carers stating they are 'keeping them off due to the new national restrictions' will be given an unauthorised absence mark.



If you have any queries about absences during this time please call the school. We believe that our school is a safe place to be and we want your children to be in school, enjoying life and learning with their friends.

Yours faithfully,

Mr C J Coulter

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