

## **Attendance – FAQs for Parents and Carers**

### **Is it compulsory to attend school from September?**

Yes. From September, it is compulsory for all students to return to school as normal. The only exception to this rule is if the child is categorised as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable. If this were the case, you would have received a letter confirming this. Currently, in Leicester, these students need to remain shielding until at least 7<sup>th</sup> September (when a further announcement is expected).

### **What happens if I decide not to send my child back in to school?**

From September, the normal attendance procedures apply. Therefore, all students well enough to attend school need to do so. Should parents choose not to send their children in to school, then the school will follow their normal absence procedures e.g. contacting home, issuing fixed penalty notices etc.

### **If my child needs to isolate because of COVID symptoms, will this affect their attendance figures?**

No. The government have given schools a specific way of coding students in these circumstances. This code ensures that any COVID related absence does not count against their attendance. This code will apply in any of the following circumstances:

- Pupils who are required to self-isolate as they, or a member of their household, has symptoms or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19)
- Pupils who are required to self-isolate because they are a close contact of someone who has symptoms or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19)
- Pupils who are required by legislation to self-isolate as part of a period of quarantine (e.g. they've been abroad)
- Pupils who are clinically extremely vulnerable in a future local lockdown scenario only

### **Is school safe to attend?**

The government have issued strict and detailed guidance to schools which, if followed, they say drastically reduces the risk of coronavirus. The government do not consider schools as 'high risk' workplaces. We have spent the summer extensively organising and planning to ensure that our building and systems meet the government requirements to open safely. Please see our #backtoschoolsafely page here:

<https://www.fullhurst.leicester.sch.uk/news/?pid=142&nid=6&storyid=367>

### **What do I do if my child starts showing symptoms of coronavirus?**

Do not send them into school. Students and staff will not be in school if they have symptoms. Follow the normal absence procedure by telephoning us to let us know of the absence and then take them immediately for a COVID test. Please then inform us straight away of the result so we can take the necessary next steps.

If your child is off school due to COVID symptoms and awaiting test results, this will not affect their attendance.

**What happens if my child shows symptoms during the school day?**

The student will be asked to go to the front of the school building to sit in an office by himself or herself. At this point, we will contact home and ask you to collect your son/daughter immediately. The child should then be taken to get a COVID test straight away. Whilst symptoms persist or a test result is awaited, the student and family should remain in quarantine for 14 days (or until a negative test result is received). This would mean that any siblings in the school will also need to isolate for this period of time. Again, this will not affect their attendance figures.

**If my child tests positive, when can they return to school?**

The government states that the individual who tests positive who remain in isolation for 10 days – this 10 days starts from when the symptoms first appeared. Once the 10 days is over, the student is free to return to school permitted they are well enough to do so. Please remember, however, that the rest of the household should remain in isolation for the full 14 days.