

# COVID-19

## Attendance

## Expectations

In March 2020 when the COVID19 outbreak was increasing, it was made clear no parent would be penalised or sanctioned for their child's non-attendance.

Now the circumstances have changed and it is vital for all children to return to school to minimise the long term impact on education, wellbeing and wider development. Contained within this booklet are the Government guidelines for the wider opening of Schools and Academies.



**If a child displays symptoms of COVID-19 it is essential for parents to arrange a test and follow test and trace instructions from the NHS if the test proves positive.**

**Please notify school of any confirmed COVID19 case.**

**School attendance will be mandatory from September 2020. This means;**

- **It is the parent/carer's duty to ensure their child attends regularly at school.**
- **It is the parent/carers duty to report any absence to the school.**
- **It is the schools' responsibility to record attendance and follow up absence.**
- **School has the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with the local authorities' codes of conduct.**

## **Pupils who are shielding/self-isolating**

**As more is known about COVID19 there will be far fewer children and young people advised to shield. Therefore, the majority of pupils will be able to return to school as normal. You should note however that;**

- A small number of pupils will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves; or because they are a close contact of someone who has COVID19.**
- Shielding advise will be paused on 1 August 2020, subject to a decline in rates of transmission. This means even the small number of children who will remain on the shielded list can return to school.**
- Students no longer required to shield but who remain under the care of a specialist health professional may need to discuss their care with their health professional before returning to school.**
- Where students are not able to attend school as parents are following clinical and/or public health advice, absence will not be penalised.**

**Pupils and families who are anxious about returning to school.**

**All pupils must attend school. School will bear in mind the potential concerns of pupils, parents and households who may be reluctant or anxious about returning to school and put the right support in place to address this.**



## Useful Contacts

Should the Attendance Office be unavailable, please leave a voicemail message.

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### School Main Number

0191 5239745 - Choose option 2 or key in direct extension.

Ext: 1100

E-mail: [venerable.bede@venerablebede.co.uk](mailto:venerable.bede@venerablebede.co.uk)

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### Attendance Officer Mrs H. Thompson

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