

## Pippins Primary School

### COVID-19 Attendance Policy update for 2020-2021

From the start of the autumn term 2020 child attendance will be mandatory and the usual rules on attendance will apply, including:

- ✓ parents' duty to ensure that their child of compulsory school age attends regularly at the school where the child is a registered child
- ✓ schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- ✓ the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices, in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

Please see the school attendance policy for further detail.

For the academic year 2020-2021 a new absence category has been added for children not attending in circumstances related to COVID-19. This code will not affect overall attendance percentages.

There are 5 different occasions when a child may not attend school due to coronavirus, these are;

#### 1. **Children who are required to self-isolate as they, or a member of their household, has symptoms or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19)**

Children who have symptoms should self-isolate and get a test.

If a child tests negative and if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating and return to school.

If a child tests positive, they should continue to self-isolate for **at least 10 days** from the onset of their symptoms. They should only return to school if they do not have symptoms other than a cough or loss of sense of smell or taste (anosmia). This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone.

If someone in the child's household has symptoms, the household should self-isolate and the member of their household should get a test.

If the member of the household tests negative, the child can stop self-isolating and can return to school.

If the household member tests positive, the child should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days from when the member of their household first had symptoms.

In all cases of self-isolation, parents should inform is immediately about the outcome of a test. We do not require evidence of negative test results or other medical evidence before admitting children or welcoming them back after a period of self-isolation.

#### 2. **Children who are required to self-isolate because they are a close contact of someone who has symptoms or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19)**

Children may not have symptoms themselves but may be required to self-isolate if they are a close contact of someone with coronavirus (COVID-19).

The **NHS test and trace guidance** states that a person should self-isolate for 14 days if they have had recent close contact with a person who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19). In the event of a confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) case in the school community, the local health protection

team will provide advice on who this applies to, advising them to self-isolate for 14 days since they were last in close contact with the person that has tested positive when they were infectious.

### **3. Children who are required by legislation to self-isolate as part of a period of quarantine**

As usual, parents should plan their holidays within school breaks and avoid seeking permission to take their children out of school during term time. Families should also consider that their child may need to self-isolate following trips overseas that require a period of quarantine. If a child is required to be in quarantine on arrival in, or return to, the UK they should not attend school.

### **4. Children who are clinically extremely vulnerable in a future local lockdown scenario only**

Shielding advice for all adults and children paused on 1 August 2020. This means that even the small number of children who will remain on the shielded patient list can return to school, as can those who have family members who are shielding.

If in future, rates of the disease rise in local areas, children still on the shielding list (or family members still on the shielding list) from that area, and that area only, may be contacted by the government and advised to stay at home and shield during the period where rates remain high. Families will receive a letter if they are required to shield again that parents will be able to share with the school.

### **5. Local lockdown**

If rates of the disease rise locally, schools may need to prevent some children from attending. Schools should follow PHE or DHSC guidance on what measures are necessary in the event of local lockdown.

### **Remote education**

If a child is not attending school due to circumstances related to COVID-19, Pippins School will offer access to remote education.