

Schools re-opening 8 March 2021

Attendance

From 8 March 2021 The DfE's guidance states that school attendance will be mandatory for all students.

The usual rules on attendance will apply, including parents' legal duty to secure their child's attendance at school.

The ability to issue sanctions such as fines will be reinstated. Schools' responsibility to record attendance and follow up absence as normal in line with DfE guidance and school attendance policies.

Guidance states that Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) students are not expected to attend school.

However, students living with CEV family members are expected to attend.

The government Road map states its "anticipates that it will no longer be necessary to advise shielding beyond the end of March 2021".

Secondary Phase

During the week of 8 March 2021, secondary students will only be expected to return following their first negative test result.

The guidance states that during that week, schools should use Code **Y** to record the attendance of secondary students not expected to attend school for lessons because of the testing programme.

Prioritise vulnerable children and children of critical workers, and year groups 10 to 13.

Schools will have discretion on how to test students over that week as they return to the classroom. Testing is voluntary and no child or young person will be tested unless informed consent has been given by the appropriate person.

Face coverings

DfE is now recommending face coverings to be worn in classrooms or during activities unless social distancing can be maintained, unless it "would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in PE lessons".

There are exemptions for those who rely on "visual signals for communication or communicate with or provide support to such individuals".

Primary children are not expected to wear face coverings, but staff and adult visitors should wear face coverings where social distancing cannot be maintained.

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Remote Learning

Schools required to provide remote education to students who are unable to attend school because they are complying with government guidance or legislation around coronavirus (COVID-19), in the circumstances provided for in the Remote Education Temporary Continuity Direction. You should keep a record of this activity but do not need to record it in the attendance register.

You should offer pastoral support to students who are:

- self-isolating
- shielding
- vulnerable

Where students are not able to attend school, as they are following clinical or public health advice related to coronavirus (COVID-19), the absence will not be penalised.

Vulnerable Students.

When a vulnerable student is required to self-isolate, you should:

- notify their social worker (if they have one)
- agree with the social worker the best way to maintain contact and offer support .

You should have procedures in place to:

- check if a vulnerable student is able to access remote education support
- support them to access it (as far as possible)
- regularly check if they are accessing remote education

COVID-19 Symptoms

Guidance states:

- Students with C-19 symptoms must immediately cease to attend and not attend for at least 10 days from the day after the start of their symptoms;
- schools with two or more confirmed cases within **14** days may have an “outbreak” and should call the dedicated advice service via the DfE’s helpline.

Code **X** if a child is shielding, self-isolating or quarantining.