

## **Attendance**

### **Eligible children – those children who are in the year groups identified for the phased return to school including priority groups**

- Children are strongly encouraged to attend their education setting, unless they are self-isolating, are clinically extremely vulnerable and have been advised to shield, or are clinically vulnerable (but not extremely clinically vulnerable) (in which case they should follow medical advice which the school should be made aware of).
- If someone in a pupil's household is extremely clinically vulnerable, they should only attend if stringent social distancing can be adhered to, and the pupil is able to understand and follow those instructions. If someone in a pupil's household is clinically vulnerable (but not extremely clinically vulnerable) the pupil should be able to attend school in accordance with current government guidance. The guidance can be found here:
  - [Covid-19 Implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings](#)
- Until the DfE confirm otherwise, attendance at school for the time being is not compulsory. However, families should notify the academy as normal if their child is unable to attend so that staff can explore the reason with them and address barriers and concerns together. Support and online learning will continue to be available and informed risk assessments will be carried out where necessary.

### **Vulnerable children and young people**

There is a continuing expectation that vulnerable children and young people, and children of key workers, of all year groups will attend educational provision, where it is safe and appropriate for them do so. As per the current guidance, where these children and young people are currently not attending but attendance is appropriate, academies should consider how to encourage their attendance. Vulnerable children and young people in this context include those who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child. Attendance is expected, unless their social worker decides that they are at less risk at home or in their placement. The educational provider should notify the social worker in cases where these children or young people do not take up their place at school or college
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan and it is determined, following a risk assessment, carried out with educational providers and parents, that their needs can be as safely or more safely met in the educational environment
- have been assessed as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who are therefore in need of continued education provision - this might include children on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services, adopted children, those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training'), those who are young carers and others at the provider and local authority's discretion

Please see the Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy addendum for further information.

### **Attendance Registers**

Upon the phased reopening of schools, academies should resume taking their attendance register using their usual method. Academies will also continue to complete the online Educational Setting Status form which gives the Department for Education daily updates on how many children and staff are attending and the KCC form.

**Monitoring non-attendance**

Academies will follow up with any parent or carer who has confirmed that their child/ren will attend and the child/ren subsequently do not attend. To support this, academies will take the opportunity when communicating with parents and carers to confirm that emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available.

**In the case of vulnerable children:** Academies, alongside a child's social worker, will be agreeing with families whether vulnerable children should be attending education provision – and the academy will then follow up on any child that they were expecting to attend, who does not. In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at the academy, or discontinues, the academy will notify their social worker.

**Fines for non-attendance**

Parents/carers will not be fined for non-attendance at this time, and academies will not be held to account for attendance levels.