

This addendum provides additional information in respect of how the current Attendance Policy for Normanton All Saints CE (A) Infant School will be applied during the current Covid-19 pandemic. It should be read in conjunction with the school attendance policy. The addendum will apply for as long as the government guidance states that changes to pupils' attendance at school remain in place.

Compulsory Attendance at School: As per government guidance, the requirement for pupils to attend school every day has ceased to be compulsory. Parents currently may choose whether to send their children. Attendance is however, encouraged. As such, the current legislation around school attendance has been relaxed. Parents will not be prosecuted or fined if they choose not to send their children to school during this current period. Absence from school remains detrimental to a child's education. During this period, any unexplained absence from school will be followed up in the normal manner as per the existing policy. This is in line with our safeguarding policy and practices. The definitions regarding authorised and unauthorised absence as outlined in the policy remain.

Pupils who are eligible to attend a session but do not

This includes children in eligible year groups, children of critical workers and vulnerable children, such as:

- where a pupil is shielding, self-isolating or the pupil has an education, health and care plan (EHCP) and their risk assessment says that their needs cannot be safely met in school, they should be recorded as code **Y** (unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances). (Temporarily, code Y can be used where a pupil is prevented from attending school due to following government guidance on coronavirus).
- where a pupil cannot attend school due to illness, as would normally be the case, the pupil should be recorded as code **I** (illness).
- where a pupil does not attend school - despite being eligible and is not shielding, self-isolating, unable to attend due to illness, nor has an EHCP risk assessment saying their needs cannot be safely met at school, the pupil should be recorded as code **C** (leave of absence authorised by the school) where no other authorised absence code is appropriate

At this time, all absence should be classed as authorised.

The policy surrounding term time holidays remains in place. Term time holidays are not permitted.

It is likely at this time that many pupils will fall into the current definition of persistently absent. As such the definition of persistently absent will be suspended for this period. As such, schools will not actively pursue parents when pupils are persistently absent. Schools will however work with parents where pupils are absent from school regularly for authorised reasons. Schools will continue to apply all safeguarding responsibilities connected to pupil attendance at school as detailed in the policy. Schools will continue to promote good attendance and celebrate this.

As per the government and Public Health England Guidance, pupils who are ill or who fall ill whilst at school will be sent home. If Covid-19 is suspected there will be a 14 day isolation period (7 for the person falling ill and 14 for the rest of the household) we expect that the pupil will be absent from the school for 14 days as they will be reliant on household family members to bring them to school. If the child receives a negative test they can return to school from immediate effect. If a child tests positive the hub/bubble they attend will be sent home from school and asked to observe the isolation guidance.