

## **COVID 19 –Addendum to the Attendance Policy – Crossflatts Primary School**

### **September 2020- Full school Opening**

This addendum supports our school's attendance policy in clearly outlining the processes that will be followed in recording attendance, in line with the Government's guidance, as well as ensuring school attendance is maximised for all pupils. This addendum applies from the beginning of the autumn term. It will be in operation until further notice and will be reviewed in line with the Government's reviews of legislation and guidance in the coming weeks and months.

-All children are expected to return to school this autumn. This decision has been made because the prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) has decreased, the NHS Test and Trace system is up and running and the government are confident that schools can input measures to create safer environments in schools.

This means that at the beginning of the autumn term the usual rules on school attendance will apply-

-Parents will have a duty to secure that their child attends regularly the school they are registered at if they are of compulsory school age.

-Schools will be responsible for recording attendance and following up any absence.

-Schools will have the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with the local authorities' code of conduct.

As a school we recognise that returning to school is vital for children's education and for their wellbeing. Time out of school is detrimental for children's cognitive and academic development, particularly for disadvantaged children. This impact can affect both current levels of learning and children's future ability to learn therefore we need to ensure all pupils can return to school sooner rather than later.

We are fully committed to supporting all our children back to full attendance.

### **To ensure high attendance from the beginning of the Autumn term we will:**

- Communicate clear and consistent expectations around school attendance to families
- Identify pupils who are reluctant or anxious about returning or who are at risk of disengagement and develop plans for re-engaging them. This will include disadvantaged and vulnerable children and young people, especially those who were persistently absent prior to the pandemic or who did not engaged with the school regularly during the pandemic.
- Use the additional catch-up funding we receive, as well as existing pastoral and support services, attendance staff and resources and schools' pupil premium funding to put measures in place for those families who will need additional support to secure pupils' regular attendance.

-Work closely with other professionals as appropriate to support the return to school, including continuing to notify any of our pupil's social workers, if there pupils is one of non-attendance.

### **Guidance for children not attending in circumstances related to coronavirus (COVID-19)**

We know that although school attendance is mandatory from the start of the autumn term, we realise that there are some circumstances where pupils cannot attend school due to coronavirus (COVID-19). Changes have been made to the regulations governing school attendance registers with the addition of a new category – not attending in circumstances related to coronavirus (COVID 19) .This is only to be used to record sessions that take place in the 2020 to 2021 academic year where a pupil does not attend because their travel to, or attendance at, school would be:

- contrary to guidance relating to the incidence or transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) from Public Health England (PHE) and/or the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)<sup>3</sup>
- prohibited by any legislation (or instruments such as statutory directions) relating to the incidence or transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19)

In line with the Secretary of State's expectation we will not penalise any parent for following official public health advice for their child not to attend a given session, this new category of non-attendance will not count as an absence (authorised or unauthorised) for statistical purposes.

The current government guidance for this category covers the following criteria:  
**(See appendix 1 for more detail of each criteria)**

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

- Pupils who are required to self-isolate because they are a close contact of someone who has symptoms or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19)

-Pupils who are required by legislation to self-isolate as part of a period of quarantine

-Pupils who are clinically extremely vulnerable in a future local lockdown scenario only(**shielding**)

### **When monitoring attendance we will be aware of current shielding guidance**

As of the 1<sup>st</sup> of August shielding advice was paused which means that there will only be a small number of pupils who remain on the shielding list and most of these pupils have now been advised by medical teams to return to school. We know that the guidance for these pupils could change in the event of a local rise in the rate of coronavirus (COVID 19) which could impact on their ability to attend school.

## **Recording Attendance**

From the beginning of the new academic year, we will return to using the attendance and absence codes in use before the outbreak, with the addition of the new category of 'not attending in circumstances related to coronavirus (COVID-19)'. These pupils will be recorded using code X. We will also continue to use code X for non-compulsory school aged pupils who are not expected to attend a session, as we did before the outbreak.

## **Full Bubble closure**

If we experience a rise in Coronavirus (COVID 19) cases in school that result in PHE risk assessing us and instructing us to close a year group bubble or a collection of year group bubbles. Code x will be used to record the absence of all pupils affected.

## **What we will do in the event of a Local lockdown.**

If rates of the disease rise locally, we may need to prevent pupils from attending. We will follow PHE or DHSC guidance on what measures are necessary in the event of local lockdown. Where attendance is to be limited to certain groups, 'not attending in circumstances related to coronavirus (COVID-19)' - code X – will be used for pupils who are asked not to attend.

## **Remote Learning**

If a pupil is not attending school due to circumstances related to coronavirus (COVID-19), we are able to immediately offer our pupils access to remote education through our whole school dojo system. We will keep a record of, and monitor engagement with this daily on class dojo. In addition to this the class teacher will, on a rota system telephone 6 pupils from the class each day for the period of absence, allowing the teacher to keep the pupils on track with their learning.

## **Rewarding attendance**

For the period of time that we are unable to hold whole school celebration assemblies. Attendance will be celebrated in bubble assemblies and children awarded 5 dojos per week if their classes' attendance is over 96%. The percentage of pupils absent due to circumstances related to coronavirus (COVID-19) will be taken into account and these pupils/ classes will not be penalised.

