



Cabot
Learning
Federation

**SCHOOL ATTENDANCE
INFORMATION**

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE INFORMATION FOR BLACK, ASIAN
AND MINORITY ETHNIC FAMILIES

JULY 2020



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- **Introduction**

- **Our CLF commitment to our Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic children, young people and their families**

The Cabot Learning Federation (CLF) is committed to our legal and moral duty of care to ensure all practical steps are taken to support our Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) children, young people and their families. This leaflet provides information that we hope will be helpful.

We are mindful of the demonstrations in Bristol and elsewhere in the UK responding to the events in the USA following the death of George Floyd, and more recently Rayshard Brooks, and the Black Lives Matter campaign. The city of Bristol has had a high profile in the news as people have protested for greater racial equality.

As a federation we are determined to make progress in achieving greater equality for every member of our BAME community. We are working with colleagues and members of our community to better understand the challenges and how to respond to the Black Lives Matter agenda with education and action, so that we can make changes that are meaningful, sustainable and supportive.

- **COVID-19**

On 2 June 2020 the Public Health England report on the disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19 was published. This was commissioned by the Government and looked into the apparent higher risk of infection for some groups of people.

Whilst age and some underlying health factors present the highest risk, the report highlighted an increased impact of the virus on people from BAME backgrounds. This will no doubt be concerning for BAME children, young people and families.

If you have any concerns about your child's return to school due to the risk of COVID-19, please contact your child's Academy Principal so that we can listen to your concerns and explain the measures we are putting in place to reduce the risk in school.

- **Safety First!**

We are looking forward to welcoming all our children back to school, but safety is still our highest priority. Our CLF Health & Safety experts work closely with all our schools to ensure suitable measures are in place to make the school as safe as possible for our pupils.

The school Risk Assessments remain live and under continuous review and the school sites will be inspected for compliance. We will continue to follow Public Health England and government guidance, and any guidance from the Local Authority.

We hope this will provide some reassurance and give BAME parents and carers the confidence to support their child's return to school.

- **Returning to school in September 2020**

On 2 July 2020 the government announced that all pupils will be expected to return to school from September 2020. We understand that some pupils, parents and households may be reluctant or anxious about returning. This may include:

- pupils who have themselves been shielding previously but have been advised that this is no longer necessary;
- pupils living in households where someone is clinically vulnerable; and/or
- those concerned about the comparatively increased risk from coronavirus (COVID-19), including those from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds.

- **Symptoms of COVID-19**

If a child or young person has any of the COVID-19 symptoms (fever, a new cough, loss of smell/taste) they must not come to school. If anyone in their household has any of these symptoms, the child or young person must not come to school. You can read the current advice on self-isolating here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

- **Raising a concern or providing feedback**

Our schools welcome feedback from children, young people and their families. Any feedback and/or concerns raised will continually help our schools and the CLF as a federation to improve the advice and support provided.

Please contact your child's Academy Principal if you have any concerns or feedback. They will either try to resolve the matter and/or refer the matter to the CLF Executive Leadership Team.

- **Communications**

CLF schools will continue to provide up-to-date information to BAME children, young people and their parents/carers during the period of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

- **What to do if you are still worried about your children returning to school**

Please let your child's Academy Principal know if you are still worried about your child contracting COVID-19 or bringing it home to your family. We hope the Principal will be able to reassure you by explaining the safety measures the school is taking and by making any other reasonable adjustments if needed.

- **Travel and transport to school**

Government advice is that parents/carers, children and young people are encouraged to walk or cycle to school where possible and avoid using public transport at peak times.

- **Using public transport**

The Government guidance states that from 15 June, passengers will need to wear a face covering on public transport. If using public transport for the journey to school, parents/carers and children and young people should follow the safer travel guidance for passengers: avoid travelling at peak times;

maintain a 2 metre distance from others who are not in your household; ensure good hygiene by using the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach; avoid touching your face; wash hands thoroughly before and after travelling; wear a face covering if using public transport.

- [NSPCC advice](#)

Here is some NSPCC advice if your child is walking to or from school without a suitable adult:

- Make sure they know their address and your telephone number by heart, in case they get lost or have to navigate home from somewhere new.
- If they have a mobile phone, remind them to fully charge it before leaving the house, and make sure they have all your contact numbers saved.
- Talk to them about road safety. They should always look both ways before crossing the street, and never be on their phone whilst crossing a road.
- Remind them never to accept a lift from someone they don't know, or let a stranger into the house. They should never give personal information away – in real life or online.
- Remind them that if they feel unsafe or uncomfortable at any time, they can call you or a trusted adult

- [COVID-19 related racism or any other form of racism](#)

The CLF is committed to ensuring our BAME children, young people and their families feel as supported as possible and do not experience direct or indirect racism due to COVID-19, or any other reason.

If your child experiences COVID-19 related racism or any other form of racism in the community or in school, please ensure you or your child tell the Academy Principal or another member of school staff about this straight away. If the person told is not the Principal, they will immediately refer the matter to the Academy Principal. The school will work with you and your child and ensure appropriate action is taken in managing the specific concern, so that your child feels safe in school and anyone who displays racist behaviour directly or indirectly, is dealt with in the appropriate way.

- [Types of COVID-19 related racism or any other form of racism](#)

These racist incidents may include but are not limited to:

- Verbal comments that connect COVID-19 to race
- Other racist comments
- Physical assault
- Online racist emotional abuse
- Inciting racist behaviour
- Social exclusion based on racial prejudices

- [School action on any form of racism](#)

If your child's school becomes aware of any racist incidents that your child directly or indirectly experiences, they will treat the matter with utmost importance, provide your child with the support they need and they will inform you as soon as possible. Where appropriate, schools will liaise with other agencies, such as the police and the Local Authority, to support a co-ordinated response. Where appropriate schools will also liaise with [SARI](#) (Stand Against Racism and Inequality). Schools

will record racist incidents on the relevant school systems, to ensure a record is kept of the incident and any action taken.

- Support for children and young people

Organisations like Childline can provide specific support to children and young people:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/crime-law/racism-racial-bullying/>

BBC Newsround has a webpage with lots of information 'What is racism - and what can be done about it?': <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52965984>

- Other resources for children and young people

BBC 'Own It' app: <https://www.bbc.com/ownit/take-control/own-it-app>

Off the Record – Project Zazi: <https://www.otrbristol.org.uk/what-we-do/zazi/>

Babbasa (16-25year olds only): <https://babbasa.com/>

- Questions and answers

1. Some parents and carers from the BAME community may feel anxious about their child returning to school. Will schools provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for children and young people?

The Federation recognises that members of the BAME community may be experiencing increased anxiety related to the news and other publicly available information related to the impact of COVID-19. The Federation is following the guidance carefully with regard to PPE.

Schools will support any parents and carers who wish their child to wear their own PPE (gloves, face coverings), to supplement social distancing and hygiene arrangements, but will want to be confident that the child/young person understands how to use this safely.

If parents/carers do want their child to wear PPE in school, they should let the Academy Principal know. A risk assessment will be completed and, if needed, the Principal will seek further advice from CLF's Health and Safety team.

2. What if a child, young person, or member of their household has been shielding due to being clinically extremely vulnerable?

- Shielding advice for all adults, children and young people will pause on 1 August, as long as there is a continued decline in the transmission rate of COVID-19. This means pupils who will remain on the shielded patient list can also return to school, as can those who have family members who are shielding. You can read the current advice on shielding here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>
- If the COVID-19 rate rises locally, some children, young people or family members from the local area will be advised to shield whilst rates remain high. During this time pupils in such pupils may be temporarily absent from school and remote education will be provided.
- Where a child or young person is under the care of a specialist health professional, advice may be needed before they return to school in September (usually at their next planned clinical appointment).

If families have any concerns because of their specific circumstances then they should speak with the Academy Principal.

3. My child is in Year 6 and is due to go to Secondary School in September 2020, but I don't know if they definitely have a Secondary School place, what should I do?

If you are not sure whether your child has a school place for September, please contact your child's primary school and they will be able to help you check this.



- **Further information on our CLF website**

You can find further information related to Covid-19 and school opening, attendance and guidance here: <https://clf.uk/covid-information-hub/> which is updated regularly.

You can find advice for parents and carers about our home learning here: <https://learn.clf.uk/hints-and-tips-for-parents/>.

- **Wellbeing resources**

Here are some BAME specific resources which children, young people and families are also encouraged to access:

Race Equality Foundation

<https://raceequalityfoundation.org.uk/health-care/coronavirus-information-and-resources/>

South Asian Health Foundation

<https://raceequalityfoundation.org.uk/health-care/coronavirus-information-and-resources/>

Stand Against Racism and Inequality (SARI)

<https://www.sariweb.org.uk/who-we-are/about-sari/>

Support with coping strategies detailed in several languages

<http://www.awp.nhs.uk/news-publications/publications/patient-information/translated/>

- **Further guidance**

Further guidance from the Government is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

NSPCC

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/coronavirus-advice-support-children-families-parents/>

Information in English and in Other Languages

Doctors of the World has produced translations of Coronavirus information about how to stay safe - <https://www.doctorsoftheworld.org.uk/coronavirus-information/>

COVID-19

NHS.UK has the latest advice and general information about COVID-19. For more information visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

NHS 111

To check your symptoms, please visit: <https://111.nhs.uk/service/COVID-19/> or call 111 to speak to an operator.