



Cabot
Learning
Federation

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

September 2020

(Information correct as at 10 July 2020)

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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 and that school attendance will again be mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age (5-16 years).

We understand that some pupils, parents and households may be reluctant or anxious about pupils 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.

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 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 parents and carers the confidence to support their child's return to school.

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.

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)

- loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Self-isolating due to symptoms of COVID-19

If a child or young person has any of these 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>

This guidance states that that the pupil must self-isolate for at least 7 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have COVID-19 (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>).

All other members of the household should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.

First aid and illness at school

First Aid provision will remain in place at school. A qualified first aider will be on site at all times. Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is available for first aid use.

As usual, if your child becomes unwell during at school, they will be taken to an isolated area and you will be called to collect them. If your child has symptoms of COVID-19 your household will be advised to follow the government's 'stay at home guidance', as above.

Please tell the school if your child is unable to attend for any reason

Please follow the school's usual absence procedures if your child cannot attend school due to sickness or any other unavoidable cause, so that we know that they are safe. If the school does not hear from you they will follow their first day absence procedures.

Travel and transport to school

Government guidance on returning to school in September states that, where possible, children and young people are encouraged to avoid public transport, particularly at peak times, and to walk or cycle to school.

It also says that, where a child or young person relies on public transport to get to school, and cannot walk or cycle, the government's safer travel guidance for passengers will apply. The full guidance can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>

The section on public transport states that, by law, passengers must wear a face covering on public transport. However, there are some people who do not have to wear face coverings. The guidance explains this in more detail.

Passengers who don't have to wear a face covering include: children under 11 years old (under 3s should not wear them at all; 3-10 year olds can, but don't have to); and people with an illness or disability that means they cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering.

Passengers should also maintain a 2 metre distance from others who are not in their household, where this is possible.

If a 2 metre distance is not possible, the advice, to reduce the risk to self and others, is to maintain a 1 metre distance where possible, and take suitable precautions including avoiding physical contact, facing away from others and keeping the time spent near others as short as possible.

Passengers should also ensure good respiratory hygiene by using the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach; avoid touching their face; minimise the surfaces they touch and wash or sanitise hands thoroughly before and after travelling.

NSPCC advice on travel to school

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

Please tell us if you have any concerns

If you have any worries about your child coming back to school, for any reason, please tell your child's Academy. We want to listen to any concerns you may have and do our best to help.

Arrival and collection routines – start and end of day

Arrival and collection at the start and end of the school day may be staggered to ensure as little crossover between our families as possible. Academies will share this information with families as needed.

Further guidance

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.

Further guidance from the Government is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

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/>

NHS.UK

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.

**If you have any further questions please contact your
child's Academy**