

Covid-19 Guidance for Attendance Autumn 2020

Introduction

At Rastrick High School (RHS) we have an expectation of excellent attendance for all our pupils to maximise their progress and achievement. We aim for every student to have 100%, and no less than 97%.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant changes to normal life and routines. Excellent attendance will support pupils in re-connecting socially, academically and re-establishing school life to support health and well-being.

The guidance below is a summary from the DfE publication, Aug 2020. (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-attendance>)

DfE Expectations

From the start of the autumn term 2020 pupil attendance will be mandatory and the usual rules on attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to ensure their child of compulsory school age attends regularly.
- school's responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence.
- the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices, in line with local authorities' codes of conduct.

Although school attendance is mandatory from Sept 2020, there are some circumstances where students cannot attend school due to COVID-19. This category must only be used to record sessions that take place in to 2020-21 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 COVID-19 from Public Health England (PHE) and/or the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC).
- prohibited by any legislation relating to the incidence or transmission of COVID-19.

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Examples in which 'not attending in circumstances related to coronavirus (COVID-19)' could apply:

What to do if...	Action needed	Return to school when...
...my child has coronavirus symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Contact school and inform us of the absence • Self-isolate (14 days) • Get a test • Inform school immediately about test result 	... the test comes back negative and the student is well enough to return.
...my child tests positive for coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school. • Contact school with your advised return date. • Self-isolate for 10 days from onset of symptoms. 	...the student can return to school after 10 days even if they have a cough or loss of smell/taste. These symptoms can last for weeks once the infection has gone.
...a member of my household has coronavirus symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Contact school and inform us of the absence • Self-isolate (14 days) • Household member to get a test • Inform school immediately about test result 	... the household member test is negative.
...a member of my household has tested positive for coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Self-isolate for 14 days from when the household member first had symptoms 	...the child has completed 14 days in self-isolation.
...NHS test and trace have identified my child as a 'close contact' of somebody with symptoms or a confirmed coronavirus case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Contact school and inform us of the absence • Self-isolate for 14 days 	...the child has completed 14 days in self-isolation.