

Appendix to Attendance Policy

Full Opening of Schools with reference to Covid 19

With effect from September 2020 it is expected that all children should return to school to minimise as far as possible the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development. As such, School attendance will be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term.

Our principles at St Gregory's Catholic High School remain the same:

- Actively promote the importance and value of good attendance and punctuality to students and their parents.
- Form positive relationships with parents and students.
- Ensure that there is a whole school approach which reinforces outstanding school attendance through positive teaching and learning experiences that encourage all students to attend and to achieve.
- Ensure that attendance and punctuality data is collected and analysed frequently to identify causes and patterns of absence.
- Interpret the data to devise solutions and to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions (Appendix 1).
- Ensure that systems to report, record and monitor the attendance of all students, including those who are educated off site are implemented.

Pupils who are shielding or self-isolating

The government now believe that there will be far fewer children and young people advised to shield whenever community transmission rates are high. Therefore, the majority of pupils will be able to return to school. However, we are aware that:

- a small number of pupils will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves; or because they are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19)
- Shielding advice for all adults and children was paused on 1 August. Meaning that even the small number of pupils who were on the shielded patient list are now able to return to school, as can those who have family members who are shielding. Read the [current advice on shielding](#)
- if rates of the disease rise in local areas, children (or family members) from that area, and that area only, will be advised to shield during the period where rates remain high and therefore they may be temporarily absent (see below).

A small minority of pupils no longer required to shield but who generally remain under the care of a specialist health professional may need to discuss their care with their health professional before returning to school (usually at their next planned clinical appointment). More advice from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health can be found at [COVID-19 - 'shielding' guidance for children and young people](#)

Where a pupil is unable to attend school because they are complying with clinical and/or public health advice, St Gregory's will offer them access to remote education in line with DfE guidelines. St Gregory's will monitor engagement with this activity (as set out in the section below).

Where children are not able to attend school as parents are following clinical and/or public health advice, absence will not be penalised.

Pupils and families who are anxious about return to school

All other pupils must attend school. Where a pupil/parent is anxious about returning to school members of the Safeguarding team will offer support to the pupil/parent to address this. Pupils already identified as a concern with regards to returning to school have received phone calls, and in some cases, enhanced support, including visits to school prior to re-opening.

All parents and pupils have received detailed information regarding the measures put in place to minimise the risk of transmission. This can also be found on the school website.

Action for all schools and local authorities

At St Gregory's we will work with families to secure regular school attendance from the start of term as this will be essential to help pupils catch up on missed education, make progress and promote their wellbeing and wider development.