



Fairfield Primary School

Attendance Policy - Covid-19 Addendum November 2020

Released: November 2020



FAIRFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Attendance at school as of September 2020

All children, in all year groups, are expected to attend school from September.

Travelling to school

Children (so far as is practical) need to maintain social distancing on arrival to school. Public transport should be used only if necessary and masks should be worn in accordance with government guidelines. Pupils should avoid walking in large groups. Walking with siblings and or walking with one or two others in their class groups (whilst socially distancing) is advisable to keep their bubbles as small as possible. The school advises that families follow the current government guidelines on social gathering and contact, and maintain these in the context of bringing and collecting children from school, especially when on school premises. Only one parent should bring/collect their child and all adults on site must wear a face covering (unless medically exempt).

Punctuality to school

Normal punctuality rules will apply from September 2020. Any child arriving after 9am will be marked as late on the register. Parents and carers are asked to ensure that children are on time as lateness reduces learning time and disrupts the learning already happening in a lesson. Any further lost learning time going forward will compound the time that has already been missed. However, if a child is unavoidably late, they must report to the main entrances.

Arrival and Departure

As per the government guidance, we have staggered drop-off and pick-up times to reduce the amount of people on site and reduce traffic. Please see the table below for the times and locations:

Year Group	Drop Off time	Pick up time	Location
Nursery	0840-0900	12:00/15:00	Lower Building Gate
Reception		15:10	Middle Gallowbarrow Entrance (HH) & Green Gate (KK)
Year 1		15:15	Lower Building Door
Year 2		15:20	Key Stage 1 Main Door
Year 3		15:30	KS2 Site
Year 4		15:20	KS2 Site
Year 5		15:20	KS2 Playground
Year 6		15:30	KS2 Playground

Illness

Parents and carers are asked to report any absence in-line with our School Attendance Policy.

If your child has **ANY** COVID-19 symptom, he/she **MUST NOT** come into school.

This means: a fever; a new or continuous cough; and/or a loss or change to their sense of taste or smell.

A COVID-19 test **MUST** be booked.

SIBLINGS in the same household **MUST NOT** come to school.

When a parent/carer calls the school to report a COVID-19 case or suspected COVID-19 case, they must give the names of all the children in the household as they will all need to self-isolate.

Tests can be booked online through the NHS testing and tracing for coronavirus website, or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet. Most tests are returned within 24 hours when a booking is made. This route is advisable to reduce lost learning days.

When a test is booked, the school must be informed and we must be updated as to whether the test is negative or positive. Children cannot return to school without prior communication as to the test result. If a child tests negative, they can stop self-isolating and return to school if they are well enough to do so. Other members of their household can also stop self-isolating.

If a child tests positive, they should follow the 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection' and must continue to self-isolate for 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste (this is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone.)

The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became symptomatic or the date of the test if they are asymptomatic (if symptoms begin after the test, this becomes day 1 and the 10 days starts from the onset of symptoms). Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

Cases of Coronavirus known to the school will be treated confidentially.

For a non COVID-19 illness, normal rules and procedures would apply. Unless children are too ill to be in school, they should be in school. The number and lengths of illnesses are monitored and if a child's absence falls below expected levels, it would be followed-up with our normal procedures.

However, please note, if a suspected non-COVID illness presents with **ANY** COVID symptom: i.e.: fever/continuous cough/loss of taste and smell, self-isolation must begin and the school must be informed (two examples are given below to illustrate this point). A test must be taken and the result shared with the school before the child can return. This must be treated as COVID-19 illness until a negative test has been returned. After a negative test, children should only return if they are well.

Examples: If your child has vomiting and a temperature, a COVID-19 test **MUST** be taken and COVID-19 and government guidance followed until COVID-19 is ruled out. Reason - a temperature is a COVID-19 symptom.

If you think your child has flu, a COVID test **MUST** be taken and COVID-19 guidance followed until COVID-19 ruled out. Reason - COVID-19 causes flu like symptoms.

Frequently asked questions

1. One of my children has a COVID symptom, can his/her sibling come to school?

No. Siblings must not come into school if their brother/sister shows symptoms and/or has a positive test. The sibling(s) must self-isolate for a minimum of 14 days only returning at the end of day 14 if any fevers have gone completely. If the test is negative for the child where symptoms originated (and the child is well), all may return to school and the period of self-isolation will end. Please contact the school in this case to notify us before your child/children return(s).

2. A member of the household is ill with COVID-19 symptoms, but my child has no symptoms, can they come in?

If a member of the household displays symptoms, any children would need to self-isolate for 14 days, unless a negative test is received for the person displaying symptoms. If the child displays no symptoms during this time, he/she would return to school from day 15 (assuming all temperatures have gone completely).

3. NHS test and trace have contacted us, what do I do?

If your household is told by NHS test and trace to self-isolate, the self-isolation guidance must be followed by the household (this will be for 14 days). Please ring the school and notify us immediately. Any children in school when the call is received would need to be sent home straight away.

If you are told to self-isolate, children **MUST NOT** come to school until 14 days have passed.

4. My child or a member of the household had the shielding letter from the government. What should I do?

Shielding restrictions have been lifted as of the 1st August 2020. This means all children are expected to be in school. If a child did not return to school we will follow this up using our normal procedures. Most children who were on the shielding list, would not be expected to remain on the shielding list in the case of a further lockdown this winter. These decisions are now being made locally by consultants in conjunction with families. If your child is advised to shield at any point, please share this information with us so that we can support your child's education remotely. Please give us copies of any documentation that you receive.

5. Will I be fined if I do not send my child to school?

We would prefer this not to happen especially in the current situation, but parents and schools have a legal duty to ensure all children are in school. We will work with families using our normal procedures but if children are persistently absent without appropriate supporting evidence, referral to the Inclusion Officer is possible. Absences relating to coronavirus do not count as a negative attendance and therefore does not reduce a child's attendance percentage.

Repeated general illness (not Coronavirus related) does bring down a child's attendance percentage and would be followed up as per our normal procedures.

6. I have heard there is a positive case of a child at the school; what happens now?

In the case of a positive test result known to the school, the school will report this to the Local Public Health Protection team. The Local Public Health Protection team may also contact the school if a positive case comes through NHS Test and Trace. The school will take actions as decided by PHE. PHE will advise which children or adults have been in close proximity to an affected person and who should be sent home. We will contact directly the families of affected children should this occur and begin a home-learning package for the isolating children.

If a group is sent home, these absences would be authorised. If children are absent (due to fears relating to COVID) but are not part of the bubble(s) that has been sent home, this would be an unauthorised absence and normal absence procedures and follow-up with regards to non-attendance to school would apply.

The school is taking considerable measures to keep staff and pupils safe. Please read our published Risk Assessment for further information- this is available on our website.

7. My child came home ill with suspected Coronavirus; how long do they stay off for?

Unless there is a negative test, your child should be at home for 10 days. The rest of the household would then begin a 14-day self-isolation. Please note, if we are sending a child home with suspected coronavirus, they must be collected by a parent or carer from our Isolation Room, located on the KS2 Site.

8. My child's bubble has been sent home; what happens now?

A 14-day self-isolation period begins for all children in the bubble (the rest of each household does not need to self-isolate unless someone in the household shows symptoms, in which case the household must self-isolate). Households should follow 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection'. They should get a test, and:

If the test delivers a negative result, they must remain in isolation for the remainder of the 14-day isolation period. This is because they could still develop coronavirus (COVID-19) within the remaining days.

If the test result is positive, they should inform the school immediately and must isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms (which could mean the self-isolation ends before or after the original 14-day isolation period). Their household should self-isolate for at least 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms, following 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection'.

Updates

Government guidance is expected to evolve through the winter and spring months of 2021. The latest version of this document will be available on the school's website.