

## **September 2020**

### **Attendance Guide- COVID-19 specific**

This guidance aims to provide clarity for parents and students relating to expectations of attendance at school from September onwards. All of the measures suggested below are taken from the official government guidance (link below).

The Health and Safety of all students and staff, as well as the wider community will always be the main priority.

As the Government Guidance has developed and changed it is now possible for us to welcome all students back into school. Following a period of understanding that Attendance would be affected for the vast majority of students- a period where penalties or sanctions were in place for non-attendance- it is now time for school attendance to return to being mandatory.

Missing more time in the classroom will place our students at higher levels of risk of falling further behind- students who have an overall lower attendance tend to achieve less well.

Therefore, the guidance relating to attendance, which is a return to the normal expectations, includes:

- parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age;
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct
- Where children are not able to attend school as parents are following clinical and/or public health advice, absence will not be penalised.

### **Students not able to attend**

It is expected a small number of students will still not be able to attend school in September- for example those who have tested positive for COVID-19 or others who have been asked to self-isolate following the Track and Trace protocol. In this case work will be provided in a similar way to how remote learning has happened throughout lockdown.

### **Students who are shielding**

At the time of writing, provision for students in Shielding Categories is to be paused on 1<sup>st</sup> August. This means that even the small number of pupils who will remain on the shielded patient list can also return to school, as can those who have family members who are shielding.

***If you or your child is worried about returning to school please seek support in advance. We are incredibly understanding that coming back into school will cause some of our students to feel anxious but we will have significant, appropriate and bespoke support available to them. In the first instance contact your child's tutor who will be able to direct your enquiry.***

In addition the Education Access Service have sent us this information:

**Returning to School**

Following the significant disruption in education due to Covid 19, school attendance will again be compulsory from September 2020.

We are aware this may raise some anxieties or questions - therefore we have implemented a support service for parents, carers and pupils to try to ensure a successful return to school.

Support will be available from:  
**17th August until 2nd September 2020**  
**Monday to Friday 9am—5pm**

For help, support, guidance and advice, contact us:

**03456789008**

Shropshire Council

The signpost graphic features a central vertical pole with four directional signs: a red sign with a left arrow and the word 'Help', a yellow sign with a right arrow and the word 'Support', a green sign with an up arrow and the word 'Guidance', and a blue sign with a down arrow and the word 'Advice'. The Shropshire Council logo is at the bottom left, and the phone number 03456789008 is displayed in large, outlined blue digits at the bottom right.

Link to full guidance, Attendance specific information is in Section 2 following advice relating to Transport. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>