

As unique individuals, we do our best at work and play for the love of God and others.”



St Benedict's Catholic Primary School
Attendance Policy
Covid-19 Addendum

Written: September 2020
To be reviewed in line with National Guidance

St Benedict's Catholic Primary School believes that regular school attendance enables children and young people to maximise the educational opportunities available to them and become emotionally resilient, confident and competent adults who are able to realise their full potential and make a positive contribution to their community.

We are committed to promoting good attendance by supporting all parents and pupils and acting early to prevent poor attendance.

Pupil attendance is mandatory and the usual rules on attendance apply, including:

- parents' duty to ensure that their child of compulsory school age attends regularly at the school where the child is a registered pupil
- schools' 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
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We expect that all pupils will attend school unless they are:

- unwell
- isolating or awaiting test results because they or a family member have symptoms (new or continuous cough, temperature, or a loss of taste or smell)
- isolating because they have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19
- isolating because their school bubble has been closed
- quarantining after a holiday in a country on the restricted list
- isolating because they have been asked to do so by Public Healthy England or track and trace

In these unprecedented times, when it is so vital that the parents and the school work together to prevent the spread of COVID-19, we do not want to force parents to send children to school if they are unwell or presenting with symptoms. However, we continue to stress the importance of good attendance on attainment. More than ever it is critical that if a child is able to, they should attend school to catch up on the learning that they have missed.

During this period, absence from school will be followed up in the same manner as always, with safeguarding our primary focus.

We continue to support and work with parents where attendance is an issue and will only seek to issue fines when all other methods to improve attendance have been exhausted. We know that due to parents and the school being cautious about symptoms, and the long wait for tests and results, many children will fall into the red or amber categories of the policy. We will not automatically invite parents for meetings or issue fines, we will investigate the causes of the absence before taking action. We are sympathetic to, and appreciative of, parents' cautious approach to sending children to school under these circumstances.

If children are well, but unable to attend school due to one of the reasons above, we refer parents to the remote learning policy.

Holidays during term time, including quarantine time, will be considered an unauthorised absence as per the main policy.

This addendum has been written based on the following documents:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings?utm_source=0e6da19a-f422-4893-af47-770e78e58269&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>