



HOLY TRINITY
Church of England Academy
Brockley Avenue, South Shields, Tyne and Wear NE34 0TS

Addendum Changes to Policy During COVID_19 National Lockdown.

During the period of national lockdown following guidance from the Department for Education Holy Trinity will be educating on site only vulnerable children and the children of critical workers. All other pupils will not attend and will learn remotely until the DFE (in correspondence with Public Health England) deem it safe for all children to return.

Pupils who are self-isolating should not attend school. Clinically extremely vulnerable pupils are also advised not to attend school. School will continue to record attendance in the register. We will follow up on absences of the pupils who are expected to be in school but where a parent wishes for their child to be absent, we will authorise the absence during this national lockdown period. Absence will not be penalised.

Critical Workers

Critical workers, parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors. Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can attend school if required. This includes parents who may be working from home.

School will speak to parents and carers to identify who needs to attend school. We reserve the right to ask for simple evidence that the parent in question is a critical worker, such as their work ID badge or pay slip. Parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.

Vulnerable Pupils

As a school, we strongly encourage vulnerable children to attend. Parents/carers of vulnerable children are strongly encouraged to take up a place that is offered. If vulnerable children do not attend, as a school we will:

- work together with the local authority and social worker (where applicable) to follow up with the parent or carer to explore the reason for absence, discussing our concerns using supporting guidance considering the child's circumstances and their best interests.
- work together with the local authority and social worker (where applicable) and other relevant partners to encourage the child or young person to attend school, particularly where the social worker agrees that the child or young person's attendance would be appropriate.

Where parents seek a leave of absence for a vulnerable child, we will only grant this, after speaking to parents and carers, and social workers (where applicable) to explore the reasons for this and raise our concerns, should we have any. The discussions will focus on the welfare of the child and will ensure that they are able to access appropriate education and support while they are at home.

Recording attendance

All pupils who are not eligible to be in school will be marked as Code X. This means they are not attending because they are following public health advice. Code X is not classed as an absence. As vulnerable children are still expected to attend school full time, they will **not** be marked as Code X if they are not in school (except if they are shielding, self-isolating or

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quarantining). If the parent of a vulnerable child wishes their child to be absent, the parent must let the school know. 16

The DFE expects schools to grant applications for leave of absence only in exceptional circumstances. This must be recorded as code C (leave of absence authorised by the school) unless another authorised absence code is more applicable.

Due to several periods of National Lockdown, the school will not be reporting on the attendance of individual pupils. Attendance awards, for this academic year will also be suspended to ensure parity and fairness for all children.

Please consult the following documentation to support this appendix:

- Remote Education Policy
- COVID-19 Whole School Risk Assessment
- DFE Restricting attendance during the national lockdown: schools. Guidance for all schools in England (January 2021)
- Behaviour Policy
- Child Protection Policy and Child Protection Addendum Policy

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