

Lathom High School

Addendum to the Whole School Attendance Policy in the light of Covid-19.

Academic year 2020-21 (Autumn Term 2.9.20-18.12.20)

Expectations of attendance

The DfE have now indicated that:

- From the start of the autumn term 2020 attendance in school is mandatory and the usual rules on attendance apply
- Schools should now record attendance and follow up absence in the usual way
- The duty on parents to ensure the regular attendance of children of compulsory school age is no longer disapplied
- The ability to issue sanctions such as penalty notices is no longer disapplied

The school day

To address the requirements of reopening safely there are some changes to processes in school. The school day is now:

8.45am to 3.20pm. However, students will finish school at slightly staggered times. This is to ensure that there is reduced crowding in the corridors and students can safely board school buses, access lifts home and begin their walking journey. Students will remain supervised by staff until they are able safely to leave the schools grounds.

Excellent punctuality remains an essential expectation for all students. Students are expected to be in school by 8.45am. The morning register closes at 8.55am, any student arriving after 9.30am without a good reason will be marked U (unauthorised absence). The afternoon register closes at 1.50pm. After this time, students will receive unauthorised marks. More detailed information concerning the school day is detailed on school's website 'RETURN TO SCHOOL' Plan for September 2020.

The recording of attendance

Attendance registers will be marked in line with the DfE statutory guidance and as detailed in our main Whole School Attendance Policy. During this academic year, there will be the use of an additional code X. This will be used to record situations when students are:

- Self-isolating
- Household isolation
- Quarantine
- Local lockdown arrangements
- Students with medical evidence from a consultant advising against school attendance due to pre-existing health concerns

This code does not count as present or absent on the students attendance record.

Students testing positive for Covid 19 will be marked as Ill in the school attendance register. This is an authorised absence.

School attendance framework and support to encourage good attendance

The school attendance framework remains as on pages 1 and 2 of our school attendance policy. In addition, during this time we have additional support for students:

If you have any concerns around your child returning due to health complications please email familysupport@lathom.lancs.sch.uk and we will offer guidance around returning.

Sanctions will be put in place for failure to attend school regularly.

The DfE have indicated that sanctions will now be used to address non-attendance at school. As a school, we will continue to offer as much support as is reasonable to prevent the need for such an approach. However, when needed legal interventions as detailed on page 7 of the Whole School Attendance Policy will be used.

Leave requests

The usual school policy applies which requires a request in advance of leave. Parents should also consider the consequences of potential quarantine on school attendance.

Students who should not attend school

1. **Students who display symptoms of Covid 19** should not attend school. A test should be arranged and the results communicated to school. School will ask to see a copy of the test results in order to confirm positive cases.

It is essential that school are aware at the earliest opportunity that there is a potential Covid 19 case.

Students testing negative should return to school at this point (any continued absence would be recorded as either an authorised or an unauthorised absence dependent on the evidence provided)

Students testing positive should isolate for 10 days from the onset of the symptoms

2. Students with underlying health conditions following recent medical advice

In most cases those students shielding or with family members shielding should now return to school.

In a small number of cases, students may receive a letter from their consultant to inform them that they should not return to school. These students will be offered online education.

School will ask for a copy of this letter.