

21st August 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

Schools have been working hard over the summer period to prepare and welcome back all pupils in the new academic year. A range of protective measures have been put in place in order that parents and children feel confident of their safe return to settings.

As a school, we understand that, as parents, you may have anxieties or concerns about your child's return and we encourage you to contact us if you have any specific concerns that you would like to talk through or any help and support that you or your child may require.

As echoed by the Government, it is vital for all children who can be at school to return, given that the sooner children can return to school, the better it is for their health and mental wellbeing, wider development and their educational prospects.

The Government have made clear the expectation that all children will return to school in September 2020 when school attendance will, again, be mandatory and the school's attendance policy clearly mirrors this.

The Government have planned for a range of potential scenarios detailing the actions that parents and schools should take in the event of one of the issues arising and this is attached in the summary attendance policy leaflet. I would be grateful if parents could familiarise themselves with this.

Yours sincerely

Donna Lee
Head Teacher

The Law

You need to make sure your child attends school regularly and on time. You will be **breaking the law** if you do not do this and there are no good reasons for your child missing school.

Help and Support

If you need help with attendance you must **talk to the school about it as soon as possible.**

Sometimes, school may need to involve other services to help. The School and Local Authority **want to help you if you have a problem.** If attendance does not get better or you do not accept help and support offered, the Council may have to begin enforcement action.

Please ask us if you would like this document summarised in another language or format.

العربية (Arabic)	(中文 (繁體字)) (Chinese)	اردو (Urdu)
polSKI (Polish)	ਪੰਜਾਬੀ (Punjabi)	Español (Spanish)
বাংলা (Bengali)	हिन्दी (Hindi)	Deutsch (German)
Français (French)	Türkçe (Turkish)	Melayu (Malay)

03000 261 381



Braille



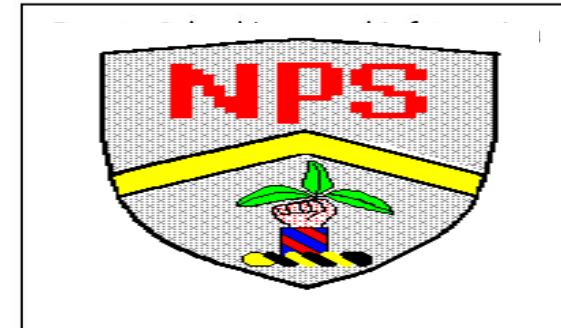
Audio



Large Print

Attendance Policy

Essential information for parents
2020/21



Attending school is very important

Your child must attend school every day. Children who are regularly absent from school miss out on opportunities which can affect their life-long chances. If you have any concerns about your child's attendance contact school, so we can work together to improve the situation.

Lateness

School starts at xxxxx am.

Your child will receive a late mark if they arrive after this time. The register closes at xxx am. If your child arrives after this time, they will receive an unauthorised absence mark.



If Your Child Is Absent You Must:

- Contact school on each day of absence and provide reasons for absence.
- Keep school informed on a regular basis if your child is absent for a long period.
- Follow Coronavirus procedures – to ensure students, staff and our school community can stay safe.

Failure to do these things may result in your child's absences being unauthorised

Unauthorised absences can be recorded on the register when there is no valid reason given for absences, a holiday not approved by the school, lateness after the register closes or illness without medical evidence.

Medical Appointments



If it is possible, any appointment should be made out of school time. If this is not possible, your child should miss the minimum amount of school time necessary. **If**

your child is well enough to go back to school following the appointment they should do so.

Holidays / Leave of Absence

Please request an **application form** from school. Consider quarantine requirements and FCO advice when booking travel. Unauthorised leave may result in a Fixed Penalty Notice (fine) or court prosecution.

Medical Evidence

If you are asked for **medical evidence** you will need to provide copies of *G.P* appointment cards or letters, medication details or other relevant information.

Persistent Absence

If your child's attendance falls to 90% or below, this is considered, by Government to be persistent absence. Where attendance falls below 90% and there are unauthorised absences, they may result in a referral to the Local Authority for enforcement Action



Please remember to contact us if your address or contact or emergency contact details change!

Coronavirus – What do parents need to do?

What to do if...	Action needed	Return to school when...
My child has coronavirus symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Contact school daily • Self-isolate • Get a test and inform school about results 	If the test comes back negative and the child no longer has symptoms.
My child tests positive for coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Contact school daily • Child to self-isolate for at least 10 days • The rest of the household should self-isolate for 14 days • Inform school immediately about test result 	After 10 days if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - you don't have any symptoms - you just have a cough or changes to your sense of smell or taste – these symptoms can last for weeks after the infection has gone. Keep self-isolating if you feel unwell; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a high temperature or feeling hot and shivery - runny nose or sneezing - feeling or being sick or diarrhoea. After sickness or diarrhoea, stay at home until 48 hours after they've stopped.
Somebody in my household has coronavirus symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • School will provide work to be completed at home • Contact school daily • Household member to self-isolate for 10 days, get a test and inform school about results • Rest of the household should self-isolate for 14 days 	If the test is negative.

What to do if...	Action needed	Return to school when...
Somebody in my household has tested positive for coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • School will provide work to be completed at home • Contact school daily • Self-isolate for 14 days 	The child has completed 14 days of self-isolation
NHS test and trace have identified my child as a 'close contact' of somebody with symptoms or confirmed coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • School will provide work to be completed at home • Contact school daily • Self-isolate for 14 days 	The child has completed 14 days of self-isolation
We/my child travelled and has to self-isolate as part of a period of quarantine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not take unauthorised leave in term time. If you do, this could result in a Fixed Penalty Notice (fine) or court prosecution. <u>where quarantine is needed:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Contact school daily • Self-isolate for 14 days 	The quarantine period of 14 days has been completed
We have received medical advice that my child must resume shielding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Provide school with your shielding notification and follow guidance. • School will provide work to be completed at home. • Follow agreed contact arrangements. 	School inform you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to school again.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Symptoms

Symptoms: Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms but some people can be infectious and not have any symptoms.

a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)

a new continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)

a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

You must stay at home (self-isolate) again and ask for a test if you get symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) more than once.

For further information about self-isolating:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/how-long-to-self-isolate/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/what-to-do-if-you-get-symptoms-again/>

Support is available from Durham County Council for those people who are self-isolating and are extremely vulnerable or may need extra help. Visit <http://www.durham.gov.uk/covid19help> for details.

If you need medical advice about your symptoms

Get help at: [NHS 111 online coronavirus service](#)

Call 999 if you feel very unwell or think there's something seriously wrong.

How to Book a Test

If you have coronavirus symptoms, you need to get a test done as soon as possible and within 5 days of symptoms appearing.

Book a visit to a test site to have the test today. Or order a home test kit if you cannot get to a test site.

On days 1 to 4, you can get tested at a site or at home. If you're ordering a home test kit on day 4, do so by 3pm.

On day 5, you need to go to a test site. It's too late to order a home test kit.

Tests can be booked online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

If you have problems using the online service, call 119

Lines are open 7am to 11pm.

What the test involves

The test involves taking a swab of the inside of your nose and the back of your throat, using a long cotton bud.

You can do the swab yourself (if you are aged 12 or over) or someone can do it for you. Parents or guardians have to swab test children aged 11 or under.

