

The Belham

Primary School



ATTENDANCE POLICY ADDENDUM SEPTEMBER 2020: COVID-19

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Introduction:

On 20th March 2020, as a result of Covid-19 and the Government's resulting social distancing strategy schools closed to all learners except those of critical workers, those with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) and those learners categorised as vulnerable. As such, although The Belham Primary School has never closed, there are many learners who have not been in school for a protracted period of time.

From 1st September, we will resume our core business of education, rather than the previous arrangements which were, in effect, organized as childcare for key workers and vulnerable pupils. We need all our children back in school so that we can support them more effectively from an academic, social and welfare perspective.

This addendum supports our school's attendance policy in clearly outlining the processes that will be followed in recording attendance, in line with the Government's guidance, as well as ensuring school attendance is maximised for all children. This addendum applies from w/c 7th September when all children, with the exception of those in Reception, will be returning to school. . It will be in operation until further notice and will be reviewed in line with the Government's reviews of legislation and guidance in the coming weeks and months.

There may be circumstances where it is necessary for the school to close to some or all groups of pupils, i.e. where we are instructed to close by Public Health England, the Local Authority or the Trust in the event of a localised Coronavirus outbreak. In the event of this happening, the provisions of this addendum will be suspended in part or whole for the duration of the school closure.

Our Guiding Principles

1. We will follow Government guidance on the 'reopening of schools'; however, we have made local decisions about the extent of provision that can be offered to families. This is to maintain the health and safety of our children and staff, taking into consideration the resources available to us. The main differences have been reductions in our extra-curricular provision e.g wraparound care and clubs.
2. We will continue to provide educational 'look after' provision for the families of key workers, children with EHCPs and those identified as vulnerable.
3. We will follow the guidance of the Department for Education and subject to which 'Tier of Education', the borough or city is placed into. Further information on attendance depending on the current situation can be found with the guidance published by the Government. Should we reach Tier 4, we will prioritise educational provision in this order: vulnerable pupils and children with EHCPs; children of key workers; other children. This will apply where the Senior Leadership Team identifies a high risk of limited capacity in school, this may be due to staff absence or where the anticipated number of children arriving in school is too high to maintain a safe adult to child ratio.
4. We will follow existing Government guidance on attendance and absence. It is now the expectation that all children will return to school. In a very small number of cases, where children have been medically advised to not attend school, we will work closely with parents to support remote learning.
5. We will follow the Government's guidance in recording and reporting on attendance.
6. Pupils in our school will be taught in bubble sizes of no more than 60, with 30 being the norm. This is in line with Government guidance. Our school will follow all relevant guidance for maintaining the safety of pupils in school and will review and adapt provision should the guidance change.

This addendum will be reviewed following any Government review of the guidance on or before 31st August 2021.

Absence from The Belham

All children should now attend school as per The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006(1) and The Education Act 2002

If your child is unwell we ask that you follow the usual procedures by phoning the school office by 9am, stating the reason for absence. Procedures for requesting absence for any other reason remain unchanged as per our Attendance Policy.

Should your child display any of the known symptoms of coronavirus; a high temperature, a persistent cough or loss of taste/smell, it will be necessary for them to be tested before returning to school. Should the test prove positive your child will need to self-isolate for 10 days and the rest of the household for 14 days. Children will be provided with remote learning to complete at home, should they be well enough to do so.

Remote Learning

Home Learning will be provided for pupils under the following the circumstances:

- Absence from school due to medical advice for the child to shield.
- Absence from school due to child or household member receiving a positive COVID-19 test.
- Absence from school due to contact from NHS Track & Trace
- Absence from school due to closure of year bubble on advice from PHE.

Where possible we will endeavour to provide the same level of education as those attending school. This presents a significant challenge where the majority of a class may be in school, whilst one or two children self-isolate at home. It will be necessary to use all the resources available to us, which may include Oak National Academy, Google Classroom, Class Dojo and other online resources.