



COVID-19 Attendance Policy
An Addendum to the current
Attendance Policy (2020-2021)

This Policy is an addition to Two Mile Ash School Attendance Policy and therefore all procedures and processes outlined in these policies are still in place. This policy is specific to outline the specific arrangements in response to COVID-19 for the re-opening of schools for September 2020.

This policy reflects the COVID-19 guidance from [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) All government guidelines will be followed at Two Mile Ash School and will remain up-to-date and respond to this guidance in a timely manner.

Updated September 2020

From the start of the Autumn Term 2020, Two Mile Ash School will be welcoming **all** pupils back to school, full time. Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school. School attendance will therefore be **mandatory** again from the beginning of the Autumn Term. This means from that point, our school's Attendance Policy 2020-21 on school attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age;
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct.

At Two Mile Ash School, we will adhere to the following:

- A child showing any symptoms or if they are self-isolating due to symptoms in the household they live within, they must not attend school and will not be allowed entry to the school. If a child displays symptoms whilst in school, they will be self-isolated and sent home immediately.
- Review and share attendance expectations during this period with all key stakeholders including parents/ carers.
- Advice will be given to parents/ carers re absence notification and reminders of attendance expectations, processes and procedures.
- Maintain usual processes for following up absence including first day responses and make reasonable enquiries if you believe a child is missing in education (CME) rather than a non-attender. Schools will continue to refer cases of concern to CME Team

At Two Mile Ash School, we will resume taking the attendance register and continue to following our school Attendance Policy 2020-21

[Pupils who are shielding or self-isolating](#)

- For pupils who are still shielding, medical documentation will be required to authorise a child's absence.
- a small number of pupils will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves; or because they are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19).
- if rates of the disease rise in local areas, children (or family members) from that area, and that area only, will be advised to shield during the period where rates remain high and therefore they may be temporarily absent.
- pupils who are no longer required to shield but who generally remain under the care of a specialist health professional may need to discuss their care with their health professional before returning to school (usually at their next planned clinical appointment). You can find more advice from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health at [COVID-19 - 'shielding' guidance for children and young people](#).

- Where a pupil is unable to attend school because they are complying with clinical and/or public health advice, as a school, we will offer them access to home learning and will monitor engagement with the learning set.
- Where pupils are not able to attend school as parents are following clinical and/or public health advice, absence will not be penalised.

If your child has Covid-19 symptoms

No one with symptoms should attend TMA school for any reason.

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. However, if you have any of the symptoms above they should also be tested. Testing is available for children who are eligible to attend their education setting <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/>

If a child tests negative, they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating and return to school. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating.

If a child tests positive, they should follow the '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)' and must continue to self-isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 7-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

All information regarding attendance at Two Mile Ash School can be found within our Attendance Policy.