

**Attendance Policy - Covid 19  
Addendum  
Bournville School  
Part of Fairfax Multi-Academy Trust**

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## 1. Introduction

We aim to ensure that all students attend school regularly and on time to enable them to take full advantage of the educational opportunities available. Regular, punctual attendance is valued and positively encouraged for all of our students. Bournville School's Student Attendance Policy will be followed, and the school will only make alterations where guidance has changed due to COVID19.

## 2. Context

From the start of the Autumn term 2020 student attendance (following the national lockdown) was made mandatory by government and the usual rules on attendance were put into place, including:

- parents' duty to ensure that their child of compulsory school age attends- regularly at the school where the child is a registered student
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence

Although school attendance is mandatory from the start of the autumn term, there are some circumstances where students cannot attend school due to coronavirus (COVID-19).

## 3. Attendance monitoring

From the start of the autumn term 2020 student attendance was made mandatory by government and the usual rules on attendance were put into place, including:

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

Although school attendance is mandatory from the start of the autumn term, there are some circumstances where students cannot attend school due to coronavirus (COVID-19).

### **Taken from the DfE COVID Addendum Attendance Guidance 2020 - 2021**

*'To make sure schools record data is accurately and consistently, we have made changes to the regulations governing school attendance registers to add a new category of nonattendance – 'not attending in circumstances related to coronavirus (COVID-19)'*.

*This category must only be used to record sessions that take place in the 2020 to 2021 academic year where a student does not attend because their travel to, or attendance at, school would be:*

- *contrary to guidance relating to the incidence or transmission of coronavirus (COVID19) from Public Health England (PHE) and/or the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)*
- *prohibited by any legislation (or instruments such as statutory directions) relating to the incidence or transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19)*

#### **4. Attendance codes**

From the beginning of the new academic year, we will return to using the attendance and absence codes in use before the outbreak (set out in DfE attendance guidance), in addition to the new category of 'not attending in circumstances related to coronavirus (COVID-19)':

- students not attending a session who meet the criteria for 'not attending in circumstances related to coronavirus (COVID-19)' should be recorded using code X
- schools should continue to use code X for non-compulsory school aged students who are not expected to attend a session, as they did before the outbreak

Please refer to Government Guidance 2020/21 regarding coding.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-attendance/addendumrecording-attendance-in-relation-to-coronavirus-covid-19-during-the-2020-to-2021-academic-year>