



Churchfields
The Village School

Atworth ∞ Monkton Farleigh

ATTENDANCE POLICY ADDENDUM

Approval Date	September 2021
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ABSENCE RELATED TO COVID-19

The Department for Education (DfE) has stated that all children are expected to be attending school where possible.

The DfE has amended their guidance: [School attendance: Guidance for maintained schools, academies, independent schools and local authorities.](#)

Churchfields will comply with this guidance and any subsequent guidance that may supersede these and are not listed here.

There will be children who may not attend school for a number of reasons:

- Ongoing high levels of vulnerability/susceptibility to complications from exposure to COVID-19. It is expected that schools will have received medical confirmation which clearly states that these pupils should not attend and that arrangements are made by schools to provide education to these children.
- Self-isolation. Where a pupil is required to self-isolate because they have a diagnosis or symptoms of COVID-19 then they will be recorded with the appropriate attendance code.
- Quarantine. A number of children may be affected by quarantine rules following a holiday abroad. Children required to quarantine must be coded appropriately in the attendance register.

Schools will work proactively with parents to address concerns about COVID-19 in the school environment and encourage a swift return to school. School Health nurses may be able to support conversations with parents regarding attendance at school. If children continue to be absent from school as a result of parental refusal then the school must consider whether absence should be authorised and whether a referral to attendance management services (e.g. EWS) may be appropriate.

The DfE recognises that some young people will be experiencing COVID-19-related mental health issues. Schools will work with families and health professionals to address any concerns. The Education Welfare Service is also available to provide advice and guidance to schools for COVID-19 related absence.