

Response to COVID-19

The North East Learning Trust has agreed this addendum which should be read alongside the Academy's current Attendance Policy.

The Department for Education have amended the school attendance guidance for maintained schools, academies, independent schools and local authorities August 2020.

For the school year 2020 to 2021, a new category has been added to record instances when a pupil is 'not attending in circumstances relating to coronavirus (COVID-19)'.

Code X (not attending in circumstances relating to coronavirus (COVID-19)) is to be used to record absence from sessions where the pupil's travel to or presence at school would conflict with:

- guidance relating to the incidence or transmission of coronavirus (Covid-19) from Public Health England or the Department of Health and Social Care or
- any legislation (or instruments such as statutory directions) relating to incidence or transmission of coronavirus (Covid-19).

In addition, the DFE have agreed to add the following as an addendum to types of absence in respect of not attending in circumstances relating to coronavirus (COVID-19):

Coronavirus symptoms

If your child, or a member of your household, has any of the following symptoms; new and persistent cough, a high temperature or loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell then you must **immediately take the following actions**:

- Report the reason for absence to school
- Self-isolate
- Arrange a coronavirus test
- Provide school with the results of that test

Self-isolating - the person with symptoms must self-isolate for 10 days and other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms. If you have tested positive whilst not experiencing symptoms but develop symptoms during the isolation period, you should restart the 10-day isolation period from the day symptoms develop.

If you are self-isolating you should not leave your home. This includes going to work/school, going shopping even for medication, going for exercise (this can be done in your garden). You should also not have any visitors.

Support for parents/carers and students:

- We will be asking why your child is off and ask for test results to be provided, so that we can protect all pupils, staff and families.
- We will make sure the reasons for absence are correctly recorded on the register. Where parents have done all that has been asked in reporting absences and providing test results, these absences will be authorised by the school.
- We will follow all safety measures set out by the government.
- If pupils are self-isolating but do not have symptoms, we will provide work for them to do at home, stay in touch and monitor the work that they are doing.
- If any additional support is needed please contact school.