

Addendum to Attendance Policy

This addendum to our school attendance policy has been written in line with recent government guidance on how the **coronavirus pandemic** and return to school following lockdown has necessitated a change to schools' normal approaches to addressing pupil absence.

Key to this is the government's announcement that: ***'Under the Coronavirus Act 2020, we have disapplied certain statutory provisions so that the parent of a child of compulsory school age is not guilty of an offence on account of the child's failure to attend regularly at the school at which the child is registered (section 444 of the Education Act 1996).'***

The relevant guidance can be found [here](#) and [also here](#).

This change applies specifically to the way in which schools may look to use parenting contracts, parenting orders and penalty notices.

During this time of emerging from lockdown, we are sympathetic to the concerns of parents who may choose not to send their children back to school immediately, or who find themselves unable to send their children back because of concerns around shielding for the child or someone else in the immediate household.

However, although the guidance around the use of parenting contracts, parenting orders and penalty notices to tackle serious absenteeism has changed temporarily, our school will continue to be vigilant around matters of attendance because we know that erratic attendance, or patterns of absence, can often be indicators of other issues. We will continue to be mindful of children's attendance, and will act appropriately if issues around attendance cause, or are part of the reason for us to be concerned about a pupil's overall wellbeing.

This addendum will be reviewed as further guidance is released by the government, and will cease to apply once the disapplication of regulations under the Coronavirus Act 2020 has ended.