

## Attendance

School attendance will be *mandatory* for all pupils from *8 March 2021*. The usual rules on school attendance apply, including:

- parents' duty to secure their child's regular attendance at school (where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age)
- the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

As usual, schools are responsible for recording attendance, following up absence and reporting children missing education to the local authority.

## Self-isolation and shielding

A small number of pupils will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice to self-isolate because they:

- have symptoms or have had a positive test result.
- live with someone who has symptoms or has tested positive and are a household contact.
- are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19).

We know from growing evidence that many children identified at the start of the pandemic as clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) are not at increased risk of serious outcomes from coronavirus (COVID-19) and children are gradually being removed from the shielding patient list (SPL) as appropriate, following review with a clinician.

The advice for pupils who have been confirmed as clinically extremely vulnerable is to shield and stay at home as much as possible until further notice. They are advised not to attend school while shielding advice applies nationally. Schools will be able to request from parents a copy of the shielding letter sent to CEV children, to confirm that they are advised not to attend school whilst shielding guidance is in place.

Schools are required to provide remote education to pupils who are unable to attend school because they are complying with government guidance or legislation around coronavirus (COVID-19), in the circumstances provided for in the [remote education temporary continuity direction](#).

Schools should offer pastoral support to pupils who are:

- self-isolating.
- Shielding.
- [vulnerable](#).

Where pupils are not able to attend school, as they are following clinical or public health advice related to coronavirus (COVID-19), the absence will not be penalised.

## Encouraging regular school attendance

Schools should continue to communicate clearly and consistently the expectations around school attendance to families and any other professionals who work with the family where appropriate.