

THA Attendance Policy COVID-19 Addendum

Student attendance during COVID-19

Addendum to Attendance Policy – (June 2020)

From 20th March 2020 parents/carers were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response - who absolutely need to attend. Schools and all childcare providers were asked to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable, and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home. Further information on how The Academy have effectively provided for this, including the registration of these students, can be found in The Academy COVID19 - Schools Safeguarding Policy Addendum [here](#).

As per the Government guidelines, The Harefield Academy is open from Monday 15th June 2020 for Years 10 and 12 and to the students mentioned above. There will be an amended timetable and strict Health and Safety guidelines for those students returning to The Harefield Academy in order to abide by the clear parameters set out by the Government. Full Risk Assessments have been completed and shared with Academy staff and Governors to ensure that protective measures create a safe environment, in which the risk of spreading the virus is substantially reduced.

Government and Local Authority guidance states that students who have school provision offered and are expected to return to school are 'strongly encouraged' to attend. Where a student is absent parents must notify the school of the reason. In line with safeguarding procedures, The Academy has a duty of care to follow up with parents/carers of any student who is eligible to be in school but does not attend. It is at the discretion of the school which staff are delegated to make contact with each family. Contact may take the form of emails or phone calls.

Parents will not face any legal consequences to their child not returning to school at this time, however if there is no communication with the school, a referral to the Participation Team will be made. This information is subject to change following guidance from the DFE.

Children and young people who are considered extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding should continue to shield and should not be expected to attend. Clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) people are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19. A minority of children will fall into this category, and parents should follow medical advice if their child is in this category. Children and young people who live in a household with someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding should only attend if stringent social distancing can be adhered to and the child or young person is able to understand and follow those instructions. Children and young people who live with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not extremely clinically vulnerable) as defined in the social distancing guidance and including those who are pregnant, can attend. Please see below the link to the Government guidelines on who falls into the extremely clinically

vulnerable and shielding and clinically vulnerable groups. If your child is unable to attend due to the above reasons can parents/carers please inform The Academy so that measures can be put in place to continue to support your child's remote learning.

Furthermore, as per the Government guidelines, no student with symptoms should attend The Academy for any reason and should isolate for 7 days. If anyone the student lives with has symptoms they will need to self-isolate or 14 days. Further information on guidelines on self-isolation can be found in the link below. Parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time. We ask that parents of eligible students who are self-isolating or are off ill due other circumstances other than Covid-19 contact the schools attendance line to inform us of the absence.

Useful links:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance on vulnerable children and young people

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people>

Extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding and clinically vulnerable groups

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/people-at-higher-risk/whos-at-higher-risk-from-coronavirus/>

Self-Isolating and treatment

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/>

The Prime Minister's speech regarding closing educational establishments

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-on-coronavirus-18-march-2020>

Latest published information on school and student numbers

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/schools-pupils-and-their-characteristics-january-2019>