



**COVID-19 school re-opening  
updated attendance policy  
Whitby Heath Primary School**

**Policy Written: Spring term 2020**

**Policy Reviewed: January 2021**

**Context:** Due to the impact of COVID-19 on how we operate as a school, it has been necessary to update some of our policies.

## **Adjustments to Attendance and Punctuality Policy in response to COVID-19**

We recognise that parents and carers will be feeling anxious and worried about sending their children back to school for a range of reasons. However, we also know that school is very important for children's education as well as their social and emotional well-being. At Whitby Heath we are doing everything possible to enable as many children as possible to return to school safely. In order to ensure that Whitby Heath is as safe as possible for pupils and staff we have made some changes to our attendance policy in-line with current guidance

The key changes are summarised below.

### **The benefits of returning to school**

Throughout lockdown we have been open to children of key workers and children in vulnerable groups and we continue to welcome and encourage these children to attend **where it is necessary. Key Workers are asked to follow Government guidance about remaining safe at home where it is possible and to only use their Key Worker place in school when it is necessary for them to complete their Key Worker role.**

### **Children with symptoms of COVID-19**

Children displaying any symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend school under any circumstances. Details of COVID-19 symptoms are available on the NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>

Furthermore, children experiencing any other illness or signs of feeling unwell whatsoever should not attend to school.

Children with household members who are extremely clinically vulnerable

Children with household members who are extremely clinically vulnerable should only return to school if they are able to understand and maintain social distancing measures in school.

### **Fines for non-attendance**

Fines for non-attendance will not be applied at this time.