

School attendance advice for parents/carers June/July 2020

In Leeds, all schools have been working to ensure a safe environment for the children expected to return to school in June. Schools will open when everything is in place for the safety of both the children and staff at the school. Please find enclosed here what to expect from schools in Leeds.

Primary schools

In primary schools, children from the following year groups (Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 6) may be invited back to school. Parents of children in these groups will receive communication from their child's school with specific details of their arrangements for welcoming the children back.

In Leeds, all schools will have a different opening schedule as part of their phased return and may have staggered starts to the school day for year groups. Schools will communicate their plans for a phased re-opening of the school and will let parents know if and when their child will be able to attend.

Secondary schools

In secondary schools, Years 10 and 12 students are to have some face to face time with teachers in the summer term to supplement their remote learning. Specific arrangements for children in these particular year groups will be sent to you by your child's school. It is expected that secondary schools will open from 15th June.

Expectations of parents

When parents have been advised that their child can return to school, and from what date, it is then a parent's responsibility to inform the school if their child is unable to attend.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How can I be sure it is safe for my child to go back into school?

The government has given extensive guidance and outlined procedures for schools to follow to enable them to open safely, whilst adhering to social distancing rules where possible. Each school has undertaken a comprehensive assessment of risk and will only open if appropriate procedures are in place.

2. Can parents/carers be fined for not sending child/ren into school during this summer term?

Under the Coronavirus Act 2020, the law has been relaxed, so that the parents of a child of compulsory school age is not guilty of an offence if he or she fails to attend regularly at the school where they are registered. Attendance registers will be open for the specific year groups on the expected days of attendance. Attendance and absence will be recorded as per Pupil Registration Regulations under Covid-19.

3. What do I do if my child who is expected to attend school has developed coronavirus symptoms?

Common symptoms: a) high temperature, b) a new, continuous cough, or c) a loss or change to sense of smell or taste

- a) Any child or parent showing symptoms associated with COVID – 19 should stay at home and self-isolate for 7 days and seek a test. Members of their household should self-isolate for 14 days and seek a test if they develop symptoms.
- b) Any child who has symptoms can now be tested
- c) Children over 12 years old can now be tested at a testing site and no longer need to request a home test.

Testing for children:

- a) Children under 12 must have a home test via the government's self-service portal www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or call 119 if you don't have internet access.

If the test is positive, parents are asked to inform the school. The child must continue to self-isolate for the remainder of the 7 days. Other household members must complete the 14 days self-isolation.

If the test is negative, the child or household members no longer need to self-isolate. Parents should inform the school.

4. Do schools have the right to contact me if I decide not to send my child back to school?

It is a parent's responsibility to contact their child's school on the first day of any absence. Schools have a responsibility to safeguard all children on their roll. They would make first day calls where any child who was expected didn't turn up to school, if there has been no contact from the parent/carer. If there is no response to a phone call then the schools may visit the family home to see the child is safe and well.

Please note that further information for parents on support can be found on Leeds Local Offer.

Any further queries for the School Attendance Service can be sent to schoolattendanceservice@leeds.gov.uk