

School Attendance Advice for parents/carers June/July 2020

In Leeds, all schools have been working on making 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.

Primary Schools

In primary schools, Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 6 will be expected to attend. Parents of children in these groups will receive a letter from their child's school with specific details of their arrangements for welcoming the children back. It is expected that most Primary Schools will be ready to open on 8th June. Please see link below to government guidance to schools.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-schools-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-primary-schools>

Secondary Schools

In secondary schools Years 10 and 12 are to have face time with teachers over the rest of the summer term and specific arrangements for each school will be sent in a letter to parents of children in these particular year groups. It is expected that secondary schools will open on 15th June. Please see link below to government guidance to schools.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-schools-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-secondary-schools>

Expectations of parents

It is expected that all children in the above mentioned year groups will return to school on the date and time given. It is a parents' 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/ren to go back into school?

The government has given extensive guidance and outlined procedures for schools to follow enabling them to open safely, whilst adhering to social distancing rules where possible. Each school has undertaken an assessment of risk and will only open if safe 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 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).

Attendance registers will be open for the above year groups and attendance and absence will be recorded as per Pupil Registration Regulations.

3. What do I do if my child/ren who are expected to attend school have developed coronavirus symptoms?

Anyone showing symptoms associated with COVID – 19 should stay at home and self-isolate along with any other members of the same household for 14 days. It would be parent/carers' responsibility to notify their child's school in these circumstances.

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

It is a parents' 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/ren are safe and well.

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

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

This document will be reviewed and updated when new guidance is available from the DFE.