



MALET
LAMBERT

**Addendum to Attendance and Punctuality
Policy
for Term 1**

July 2020 / Version 1.0

Important: This document can only be considered valid when viewed on the school's website. If this document has been printed or saved to another location, you must check that the version number on your copy matches that of the document online.

Rationale:

Attendance expectations taken from the Gov.uk - Guidance for full opening - schools (July 2020).

In March when the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak was increasing, we made clear no parent would be penalised or sanctioned for their child's non-attendance at school.

Now the circumstances have changed and it is vital for all children to return to school to minimise as far as possible the longer term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development.

Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school. School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the Autumn Term 2020. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- *Parents duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age;*
- *Schools responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence*
- *The availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct*

Schools however should bear in mind the potential concerns of pupils, parents and households who may be reluctant or anxious about returning and put the right support in place to address this.

Parents of pupils with significant risk factors are recommended to discuss with schools their concerns and schools provide reassurance of the measures they are putting in place to reduce the risk in school. Schools should be clear with parents that pupils of compulsory school age must be in school unless a statutory reason applies (e.g. granted leave of absence, is unable to attend because of sickness, is absent for a necessary religious observance).

Changes to Malet Lambert attendance policy:

Authorised absence

Shielding

We know that far fewer children and young adults will be advised to shield whenever community transmission rates are low, therefore, in the current situation, the majority of pupils will be able to return.

We ask that you please let us know if your child falls into one of the following categories below:

- Shielding advice for all adults and children will pause on 1st August, subject to a continued decline in the rates of community transmission. This means that even the small number of pupils who will remain on the shielded patient list can also return to school, as can those who have family members who are shielding. However, we are extremely sensitive to individual circumstances, so please get in touch with your child's Head of House or myself via email keri.pearson@maletlambert.hull.sch.uk to arrange a phone call, if you would like to discuss this in more detail. We will also send out a survey to all parents in late August to gather additional information from you regarding this

- If rates of transmission rise in the area, pupils and family members may be asked to shield again during the Autumn Term. Should this be the case, please inform me of the email address above.
- Some pupils no longer required to shield, but who generally remain under the care of a specialist health professional may need to discuss their care with their health professional before returning to school.

Where a pupil is unable to attend due to any of the above reasons because they are complying with clinical and/or public health advice, the school will offer them access to remote education. Engagement with remote education will be strictly monitored.

Self Isolation and Testing

Where a pupil is self isolating because they have symptoms or have had a positive test result themselves; or because they are a close contact of someone who has Covid 19, absence will not be penalised.

Ensuring that pupils do not come into school if they have Covid 19 symptoms or have tested positive in the last 7 days is of the utmost importance. Therefore a pupil should not be sent into school if they meet either of these criteria. If a pupil develops symptoms during the school day, they will be isolated and we will request that parents/ carers collect immediately.

As part of the NHS Test and Trace process, we have been asked to ensure that all parents/ carers are aware of the need to book a test if you or anyone in your household develops symptoms and to follow self isolation guidance. Following receipt of the test results, please inform school immediately of these results, positive or negative, so that we can advise of the next steps that you and the school need to take.

Pupils and families who are anxious about the reopening of school

As a school, we have full confidence in the measures we have put in place, as outlined in other communication from the Head of School and CEO. We are taking into consideration potential concerns of pupils, parents and households who may be reluctant or anxious about returning and we will endeavour to put the right support in place to address this. As guidelines suggest this may include pupils who have been shielding themselves or shielding family members, or those concerned about the comparatively increased risk from COVID 19, including Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds or who have certain conditions such as obesity and diabetes. We recommend for families with concerns, that contact is made with their child's Head of House or myself to discuss these.

What Malet Lambert School Expects from Parents/Carers

Contacting the school when your child is absent from school

Please continue to use the absence text line on 07860 055658 should your child be absent from school, clearly stating the reason why.

If your child is absent due to illness, please be specific about their illness in your communication and if your child is displaying any of the COVID 19 symptoms, you must state this when you contact the school as well as when your child started with symptoms. As a school, we are responsible for liaising with Public Health England for any confirmed cases within the school population, therefore communication between parents/carers and school is vital in reducing transmission.

A reminder of the symptoms

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)

- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal