

Addendum to Al-Noor Voluntary Aided Primary School's Attendance Policy in light of the Covid-19 pandemic

This addendum provides additional information in respect of how the current Attendance Policy for Al-Noor Voluntary Aided Primary School will be applied during the current Covid-19 pandemic. It should be read in conjunction with that policy. The addendum will apply for as long as the government guidance states that changes to pupils' attendance at school remain in place.

Compulsory Attendance at School:

As per government guidance, the requirement for pupils to attend school every day has ceased to be compulsory. Parents currently may choose whether to send their children. Attendance is however, encouraged. As such, the current legislation around school attendance has been relaxed. Parents will not be prosecuted or fined if they choose not to send their children to school during this current period.

Absence from school remains detrimental to a child's education. During this period, any unexplained absence from school will be followed up in the normal manner as per the existing policy. This is in line with our safeguarding policy and practices.

This addendum will be reviewed following any Government review of the guidance.

The addendum relates to recording and reporting on the attendance and absence of five groups of pupils:

1. Children of key workers
2. Vulnerable children
3. Children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)
4. Other children, who return to schools in specific year groups, as advised by Government guidance
5. Children whose education is being supported remotely at home who are not in one of the groups identified above.

From the date the school opens to wider groups of pupils: from 15th June 2020 the following codes will be used to record attendance:

Pupils who are eligible to attend and do attend

- Use /

Pupils who are not eligible to attend a session, i.e. those in group 5 above or in year groups not yet open to attend

- Use X on the attendance register

Pupils who are eligible to attend a session but do not, this could apply to children in group 1, 2, 3 or 4 above for a variety of reasons, apply the following code on the attendance register dependent on circumstances. The Government guidance states that, at this time, all absence should be regarded as authorised.

- Use Y (pupil absence due to exceptional circumstances) where (a) a child is shielding, (b) a child is self-isolating or (c) have an EHCP and a risk assessment has determined that their needs cannot be met in school.
- Use I (illness) where a child is too ill to attend school.
- Use C (authorised absence) where a child who is expected to be in school but does not attend.

The School will continue to share attendance information with both the Local Authority and the DfE daily.

The School will continue to make regular contact with families whose children are eligible to attend school but are absent and those who currently do not have an onsite offer. The School will liaise with the Education Welfare Service where contact with families is unsuccessful.