

**Covid-19 Addendum 4.0 (March 2021)**

In January when the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak was increasing, we made it clear that no parents/carers 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. School attendance will be mandatory for all students from 15<sup>th</sup> / 16<sup>th</sup> March.

During the week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> March, students will be offered asymptomatic testing on site at Airedale Academy as per the table below.

|                               | <b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>Thursday 10<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>Friday 11<sup>th</sup></b> |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Year 7</b>                 | RL                           | Test 1 – AM                   | RL                              | RL                              | Test 2 – AM                   |
| <b>Year 8</b>                 | RL                           | Test 1 – AM                   | RL                              | RL                              | Test 2 – AM                   |
| <b>Year 9</b>                 | RL                           | Test 1 – PM                   | RL                              | RL                              | Test 2 - PM                   |
| <b>Year 10</b>                | Test 1 – AM                  | RL                            | RL                              | Test 2 – AM                     | RL                            |
| <b>Year 11</b>                | Test 1 – AM                  | RL                            | RL                              | Test 2 – AM                     | RL                            |
| <b>Years 12 &amp; 13</b>      | Test 1 - PM                  | RL                            | RL                              | Test 2 - PM                     | RL                            |
| <b>Keyworker Groups Tests</b> | In school                    | In school                     | In school – Test 2              | In school                       | In school                     |

\*RL = remote learning at home

|                          | <b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup></b>     | <b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup></b>    |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Year 7</b>            | RL                                | In school normal lessons & Test 3 |
| <b>Year 8</b>            | RL                                | In school normal lessons & Test 3 |
| <b>Year 9</b>            | RL                                | In school normal lessons & Test 3 |
| <b>Year 10</b>           | In school normal lessons & Test 3 | In school normal lessons          |
| <b>Year 11</b>           | In school normal lessons & Test 3 | In school normal lessons          |
| <b>Years 12 &amp; 13</b> | In school normal lessons & Test 3 | In school normal lessons          |

\*RL = remote learning at home

Missing out on more time in the classroom risks students 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 dates shown above. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- Parents/carers duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered student 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

### **Self-isolation and shielding**

A small number of students may still be unable to attend in line with public health advice to self-isolate because they:

- have symptoms or have had a positive test
- live with someone who has symptoms or has tested positive and are a household contact
- are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19)

Government guidance issued in February 2021

([https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/964351/Schools\\_coronavirus\\_operational\\_guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/964351/Schools_coronavirus_operational_guidance.pdf)) states that many children identified at the start of the pandemic as clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) are not at increased risk of serious outcomes from coronavirus (COVID-19) and children are gradually being removed from the shielding patient list (SPL) as appropriate, following review with a clinician. Where students are not able to attend school, as they are following clinical or public health advice related to coronavirus (COVID-19), the absence will not be penalised.

However, the advice for students who have been confirmed as clinically extremely vulnerable is to shield and stay at home as much as possible until further notice. These students are not expected to attend school while shielding advice applies nationally. Parents/carers are asked to provide the academy with a copy of the shielding letter sent to CEV children to confirm they are not advised to attend school whilst shielding guidance is in place. Please email all letters to [attendance@airedaleacademy.com](mailto:attendance@airedaleacademy.com).

Where a student is unable to attend school because they are complying with clinical and/or public health advice, Airedale Academy will immediately offer them access to remote education. It is our expectation that any student working remotely accesses this provision in its entirety as it is designed to replicate a traditional school day.

Airedale Academy appreciates the anxiety returning to school could cause for many students and their families. We are committed to working with our families to ensure all students can return to school safely in March. Where families feel there may be difficulties, we ask they contact the academy to discuss what support can be put in place to enable students to return.

Where children are not able to attend school as parents are following clinical and/or public health advice, absence **will not** be penalised. Parents/carers will not be asked to provide unnecessary medical evidence such as doctors' notes from their GP when their child is absent from school due to illness.

From March 15<sup>th</sup>, regular attendance codes will be used to record school attendance. Absence from school can be **ONLY** be authorised in the following cases (It is the school's decision whether an absence is authorised):

- Physical Sickness or gastro-intestinal distress (where possible, please inform the academy before 9am on **EACH day** of sickness related absence);
  - Injury or in-capacitation;
- Medical appointments – please email evidence to [attendance@airedaleacademy.com](mailto:attendance@airedaleacademy.com), e.g. photograph of appointment card/letter;
- Days of religious observance;

- Exceptional family circumstances;
- By permission of the Principal;

Students unable to attend school will be provided with remote education.

During the week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> March, all students at Airedale Academy will be offered asymptomatic testing on site. Students will be marked on registers via Bromcom (schools management information system) with a Y code as they are not expected to attend on-site lessons during this week.

In order to define attendance and absence correctly after all in-school testing has been completed, the follow extra-ordinary codes will be used on registers:

- All students attending in-school provision will be coded on registers as either:
  - / (present)
  - **I01** (non-Covid illness)
  - **I02** (positive test for Coronavirus (COVID-19))
  - **M** (Medical)
  - **C** (authorised absence)
  - **X01** (This code is used to record sessions that non-compulsory school age children are not expected to attend.
  - **X02** (suspected Covid-19 case)
  - **X03** (student self-isolating due to contact with a positive case in school)
  - **X04** (student self-isolating due to contact with a positive case outside of school).
  - **X05** (This code is used for students who are required to quarantine on arrival, or return, to the UK.
  - **X06** (This code is used for the small number of students who have been specifically identified as clinically extremely vulnerable and advised they should not attend school).
  - **X07** (This is for students who as part of local or national restrictions to education settings, are specifically advised not to attend school for public health reasons).

It is envisaged that this policy will be in place until Government guidance indicates that Covid restrictions can be lifted. A further update, if necessary, will follow in due course.

### **Students and families who are anxious about attending school**

We appreciate that it is likely that some students, parents and households may be reluctant or anxious about attending school. This may include students who:

- Have themselves been shielding previously but have been advised they no longer need to shield
- Live in a household where someone is clinically vulnerable (CV) or CEV (including young carers)
- Are concerned about the possible increased risks from coronavirus (COVID-19) such as those who have certain conditions such as obesity or diabetes.

In order to keep all staff and students as safe as possible, and to mitigate as far as is possible against the risk of Coronavirus (COVID-19), the following measures will remain in place:

#### How will students be grouped?

To adhere to current government guidelines for staff and students, whilst also providing a return to structured teaching and learning, students will be placed in year group bubbles. This model is designed to achieve the following:

- Limit social interaction between students to minimal levels between different year groups
- Prevent the sharing or re-using of equipment and resources between different year group bubbles
- Ensure students receive timetabled specialist teaching
- Ensure learning is maximised Tables will be arranged in rows facing the front where feasible reflecting government guidance on ways to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.
- Students are advised to wear face coverings in **ALL** indoor areas of school, including classrooms, except when eating or drinking, i.e. during lunchtime.

Each year group bubble will be allocated a different area of the school site. Students will remain in their area for all of their lessons and toilets will be allocated to each area.

#### How will social distancing be implemented?

Via the bubbles as described above. We have also restructured the school day so that year group bubbles remain apart. Each year group bubble will arrive to and leave site separately and use a designated gate. The year group bubbles will have separate break and lunchtimes. Classrooms and teaching spaces have been set out to minimise contact between students and teachers. Students will be reminded that they must socially distance with all adults in the Academy.

All students of compulsory school age must be in school unless a statutory reason as outlined above applies.

Parents/carers should be encouraged to avoid booking family holidays during term time. The Principal's permission now needs to be given prior to a 'Family Holiday' being taken by a student at Airedale Academy and leave of absence will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. Parents/carers should write to the Principal prior to making any bookings. Holidays should not be taken during periods of formal examinations. Since September 2013, schools can only authorise a holiday in exceptional circumstances. Any parents/carers/guardians who have a holiday request denied and still take their child(ren) out of Airedale Academy face a fixed penalty notice being issued by the Local Authority;

For students whose attendance drops below 95%, the school reserves the right to mark any future absences as unauthorised (unless medical evidence is received). A request for a fixed penalty notice (fine) could then be requested from Wakefield Council for any student with 10 or more unauthorised absences (5 days).