



## Covid-19 Addendum to Attendance Policy

**November 2021**

**This Addendum should be read in conjunction with the West Somerset Education Partnership Attendance Policy, Somerset County Council Management of Covid-19 in School Age Children and Covid-19 Self-Isolation guidance.**

From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020, attendance has, once again, been mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age, registered at a school. 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. All schools in West Somerset are committed to working with parents/carers to ensure that the children/young people in our community are supported to achieve their full potential.

The WSEP Attendance Policy sets out the responsibilities of parents/carers in ensuring that their child, of compulsory school age and registered at a school, attends regularly and on time. It is always the intention of West Somerset schools to work supportively with parents/carers to achieve this – the policy and the Attendance Concerns Pathway contained within it, provides an overview of the process that is followed at our schools.

All West Somerset schools have developed robust risk assessments to ensure the health and safety of the school community, adhering to guidance provided by the Government, Public Health England (PHE) and Somerset County Council (SCC). Where parents/carers or children/young people have concerns around Covid-19, schools will work collaboratively with families to provide reassurance regarding attendance at school. However, where attendance concerns continue, standard processes will be followed, as outlined in the WSEP Attendance Policy.

Parents/carers are expected to follow the guidance set out in the SCC Management of Covid-19 in School Age Children and, where appropriate, the guidance for self-isolation. If concerns arise around the number of absences reported in relation to Covid-19, the school will follow up with parents/carers using the processes outlined in the Attendance Concerns Pathway and in consultation with external agencies, where appropriate.

**This addendum has been agreed by all Headteachers in the West Somerset Education Partnership and will be updated, as appropriate, in response to guidance from the Government, UK Health Security Agency and/or Somerset County Council.**

**Updated in response to Government guidance January 2022.**