



## **Addendum to the IPMAT Attendance Policy in light of the Covid-19 pandemic**

This addendum provides additional information in respect of how the current Attendance Policy for IPMAT 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.

The definitions regarding authorised and unauthorised absence as outlined in the policy remain. Pupils absence will still be regarded as unauthorised for the reasons listed in the policy.

The policy surrounding term time holidays remains in place. Term time holidays are not permitted.

It is likely at this time that many pupils will fall into the current definition of persistently absent. As such the definition of persistently absent will be suspended for this period. As such, schools will not actively pursue parents when pupils are persistently absent. Schools will however work with parents where pupils are absent from school for an unauthorised reason or regularly absent for authorised reasons.

Schools will continue to apply all safeguarding responsibilities connected to pupil attendance at school as detailed in the policy.

Schools will continue to promote good attendance and celebrate this.

As per the government and Public Health England Guidance, pupils who are ill or who fall ill whilst at school will be required to stay away from school. If Covid-19 is suspected, pupils should stay away from school, as should their siblings and other members of their household, until they have recovered or have received a negative test. Proof of a negative test will be requested before the pupil returns to school, if pre the 7 day isolation period, or the 7 day isolation period should have passed.