

School attendance and oversight of vulnerable children

DfE guidance is clear that schools remain open for vulnerable children and where needed to children of critical workers should attend. The full guidance in relation to this can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

As vulnerable children are still expected to attend school full time, they should be marked as normal in the register. If they do not attend this should be marked as an authorised or unauthorised absence and the X code should not be used unless they are shielding, self-isolating or quarantining.

Vulnerable children are classified as those with a social worker on a child in need plan, child protection plan, child looked after. Also those pupils with an EHCP. The definition allows for wider groups of vulnerable children including those open to early help/TFSW if required.

Schools should encourage **all** vulnerable children to attend however if a parent of a vulnerable child wishes their child to be absent from school this should be recorded as a C code (leave of absence authorised by the school). If a parent of a vulnerable child requests their child does not attend school please record a reason for the request. If the child has a social worker please ensure you contact them to outline the reason for the request (parental anxiety due to COVID / child anxiety due to COVID / or other reasons) and any specific concerns or additional support required.

If a vulnerable child with a social worker does not attend school when expected or does not engage in remote learning schools should alert the social worker of the child on the third day of absence and record this on the child's safeguarding record. However if a school have concerns regarding the safety of a child or believe the child to be at risk of significant harm this should be referred to the MASH immediately.

Vulnerable children without a social worker or other children who are not visible in school or on remote learning should be followed up by the school and if concerns persist or they are still not engaged after 3 days this can be referred to the Education Welfare Service for investigation:

Admin.educationwelfare@nottinghamcity.gov.uk 0115 8762965

Children of critical worker parents and carers (who have an arrangement for their children to attend) should let schools know if their child will not be attending and, if not schools should grant a leave of absence (code C).

All pupils not expected to be in school should be marked with Code X.