

5-11-2020

Diocese of Chichester Education Department

Latest guidance on the admissions variant- church attendance

This guidance clarifies that whenever there is a lockdown (past, present or future) or when places are limited or when people are shielding, then that time is not applicable when applying over-subscription criteria for Church attendance.

- The attendance variation covers this lockdown, as at present churches are required by law to close for public worship from 12.01 on Thursday 5th November until the lockdown ends.
- This also covers any period of local or regional lockdown where churches were closed, whether because it was a legal requirement or because the incumbent judged the church could not be reopened for public worship in a COVID-secure manner.
- The same procedure when churches reopen is as before: it covers people who cannot attend public worship because they are vulnerable or because they cannot obtain a place due to restrictions on the number of seats or other restrictions
- Schools do not have to reapply for the attendance variation for this or other lockdowns
- Nor do schools have to apply for or consult on the retention of the variant to continue for September 2022 or 2023 entry. It has become part of their determined arrangements.
- We advise that the variant is retained for the foreseeable future, mindful that the Chief Medical Officer recently observed that we will need to manage what will become an endemic disease.