

# No effect of school closures on COVID-19 in children

October 6, 2021 (<https://www.hartgroup.org/no-effect-covid-school-closures/>)

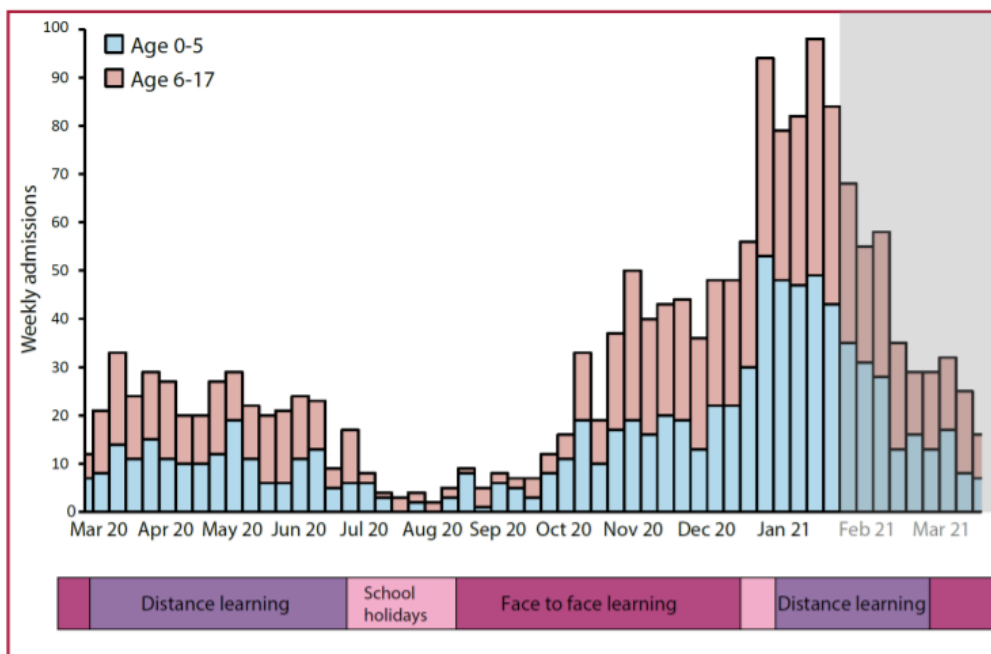


## *Hospitalisation rates unaffected by schools policy*

The latest government paper

([https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1018607/S1374\\_Supplementary\\_Information\\_-\\_Comparison\\_of\\_children\\_and\\_young\\_people\\_admitted\\_with\\_SARS-CoV-2.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1018607/S1374_Supplementary_Information_-_Comparison_of_children_and_young_people_admitted_with_SARS-CoV-2.pdf)) on

COVID-19 in children clearly shows the number of cases tracking the rates in the general population, with no effect of schools opening or closing, even on the rates at which children were admitted to hospital with COVID-19.



*Supplementary Figure A. Timeline of major lockdown events in England against SARS-CoV-2 admissions for patients under 18 years across England (admissions data from NHS England).<sup>4</sup> Magenta = face to face learning, purple = distance learning, pink = school holidays. This ISARIC4C analysis spans the period indicated by a white background. (NB. ISARIC-4C also includes data from Scotland and Wales)*

It is worth noting that the blue bars represent pre-school children; it is the pink bars which represent school children. No rise was seen in September 2020 after schools returned, a jump was seen in January when a fall would be expected from schools having shut, and no rise was seen in March 2021 when schools returned.

There should never again be any suggestion of closing schools in order to mitigate the spread of a respiratory virus. It clearly does not work. This policy was extremely harmful, with the country's most disadvantaged children suffering the most. It is possibly one of the most misguided health policies in living history when one considers the epidemiological data.

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