

## **School Attendance - Change to Penalty Notice Fines**

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued after 19th August 2024.

### **Per Parent, Per Child**

Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent, for each child that was absent. For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

### **National Threshold**

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England; 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period.

Therefore a 5 day holiday would meet the national threshold.

The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years. These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence, including; late after the registers have closed and unauthorised absence (no reason and/or no evidence given for an absence).

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### **First Offence**

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:

- £160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days
- Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days

### **Second Offence (within 3 years)**

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:

- £160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days

### **Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)**

• The third time an offence is committed a Penalty Notice will not be issued and the case will be presented at a Magistrate's Court. Prosecution can result in a criminal record and fines of up to £2,500

• Cases found guilty in a Magistrate's Court can show on a parent's future DBS certificate stating 'failure to safeguard a child's education'

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Regular attendance is essential for your child's academic progress and overall development. If your child's attendance becomes a concern, the school will consider appropriate support to help improve it. We encourage all parents to collaborate with school to address attendance issues. However, if all support efforts are exhausted and there is no engagement from parents/carers, a penalty notice may be issued.

Thank you for your cooperation.