

Penalty Notice fines for school attendance are changing

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 will now be issued for each child that was absent.

For example, 3 siblings absent for term time leave would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

5 consecutive days of unauthorised term time leave = Penalty Notice

Penalty Notice fines will be issued for term time leave of 5 or more consecutive days= 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10 week period.

First offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for term time leave or irregular attendance, the amount will be **£160 per parent, per child**, to be paid within 28 days.

This is 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 term time leave or irregular attendance, the amount will be **£160 per parent, per child, to be paid within 28 days**. There is no discounted rate for a 2nd Penalty Notice.

Third offence and any further offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed for term time leave or irregular attendance, a Penalty Notice will not be issued **but the case will be presented straight to a Magistrate's court**. Magistrate fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child.

Cases found guilty in a Magistrates court can show on the parents' future DBS certificate, due to failure to safeguard a child's education.

We cannot accept the following as exceptional circumstances:

- Our holiday has been gifted and paid for so we did not have a choice of dates
- My child needs a holiday at quieter times
- My work do not allow me to take holiday during the summer holiday period (even if a letter is provided)
- My child has good or 100% attendance
- I will report my child being poorly – schools are expected to carry out home visits. If a holiday is suspected, school will need to report to the Local Authority for a Penalty Notice fine.