

PENALTY NOTICE FINES FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ARE CHANGING

Why is attendance important?

Every moment in school counts and missed days add up quickly. For most pupils, the best place to be during term-time is in school, surrounded by the support of their friends and teachers.

This is important not just for your child's learning, but also for their overall wellbeing, wider development and their mental health. It's not just children who fail to attend school who miss out, but those around them too.

Penalty Notice Fines will now be considered when there have been 5 days, or more, of unauthorised absence in a 10-week, (the equivalent of less than 90% attendance or one day absence a fortnight)

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 if 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 Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child to be paid within 28 days. No reduced rate will be offered.

THIRD OFFENCE AND ANY FURTHER OFFENCES (WITHIN 3 YEARS)

In a case where the national threshold is met for a third time (or subsequent times) within 3 years, alternative action will be taken instead. This could result in prosecution. If you're prosecuted because your child hasn't been attending school, you could receive a School Attendance Order through the family Court or a fine of up to £2,500.

If you would like to know more further information can be found using the following links:

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2024/08/19/fines-for-parents-for-taking-children-out-of-school-what-you-need-to-know/>

www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance



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