

School Penalty Notices for Attendance are changing from August 2024

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into effect for all those issued after 19th August 2024.

Per Parent, Per Child

Penalty Notices are issued to each parent, for each absent child.

For Example: 2 siblings absent for leave during term time would result in each parent receiving 2 separate Penalty Notices.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Irregular Attendance or leave in Term Time the amount will be **£160 per parent, per child when 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 Irregular Attendance or leave in Term Time the amount will be **£160 per parent, per child when paid within 28 days.**

Third Offence

(Within 3 years)

The third time a Penalty Notice is issued for leave in Term Time or irregular attendance, the case will be presented to the Magistrates Court, where fines of up to £2500 per parent, per child can be imposed.

Note: Cases found guilty in Magistrates Court can show on Parents future DBS certificates as a 'Failure to safeguard a child's education'.

10 sessions of Unauthorised absence in a 10-week period

Penalty Notices will be considered when there have been 10 sessions of Unauthorised absence in a 10 school week period. (**10 Sessions = 5 full days**)

These Absences can be late after register closes, Unauthorised Absences and Unauthorised Term Time leave absences. They can also be a combination of any of the above.

Penalty Notices are issued by the Local Authority on the instruction from the School/Academy, in line with the Department for Education legislation.

Once issued these cannot be withdrawn.

The DfE guidance from August 2024 regarding leave of absence, advises that the DfE does not consider a need or desire for a holiday, or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation, to be an exceptional circumstance.