

# Penalty Notice Fines for School Absence Have Changed

A National Framework for Penalty Notices, has been introduced by the Department for Education and came into effect on the **19<sup>th</sup> August 2024**.

## There is Now a National Threshold

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

For example:

- a **5 day** holiday in term time (term time leave), would meet the national threshold.
- **5 days** of unauthorised absence due to irregular school attendance, would meet the national threshold
  - The 10 school week period can span different terms or school years.

## Who May Be Issued with a Penalty Notice?

### Penalty Notices are Issued Per \*Parent, Per Child

Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent who allows their child to be absent from school.

For example:

- 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent who allowed the absence, receiving 3 separate fines.

### First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for term time leave or irregular school attendance, the fine amount will be:

- £80 per parent, per child, if paid within 21 days.
- Increasing to £160 if paid between days 22-28.

### Second Offence (within 3 years)

The Second time a Penalty Notice is considered and issued for term time leave or irregular school attendance, the fine amount will be:

- £160 per parent, per child, payable within 28 days.

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

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or Irregular school Attendance, a Penalty Notice will **not** be issued.

- The case will be referred to the Magistrate's Court for consideration.
  - Upon Prosecution a parent can receive a criminal record and a fine of up to £2,500.

If you are experiencing difficulties in ensuring your child's regular school attendance, you are advised to speak with the Attendance Lead in your child's school, to address any support needs.

\*Parent is defined as the natural parent, the person with whom the child lives and/or has day to day care of the child

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