

Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance are changing from August 2024

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

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

These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence.

The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.

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 could be presented straight to the Magistrate's Court. Prosecution can result in Criminal records and fines of up to £2,500.

Please note: Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court may show on the parent's future DBS certificate due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.

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.

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Once issued, these cannot be withdrawn.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 Local Authority **DO NOT** accept the following as exceptional circumstances:

- **I can't take holidays from work during the school holiday period.**
- **My child needs a holiday at quieter times due to their needs.**
- **Our holiday has been gifted and paid for and I did not have a choice of dates.**
- **My child has good or 100% attendance.**

If a child is reported absent, a welfare check may be carried out. If a holiday is suspected, it will be reported to the Local Authority for a penalty notice.