



IMPORTANT UPDATE

PENALTY NOTICES CHANGE FROM SEPTEMBER 2024

You may be aware that the Department for Education has recently announced national changes to penalty notices issued for unauthorised absence (leave or irregular attendance) in term time.

These changes will come into effect on 19 August 2024.

- Penalty notices will be charged at **£160** per parent per child.
This can be paid at £80 if paid within 21 days
- Any second penalty notice issued to the same parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period will be issued at the rate of **£160** with no option for a discounted rate
- Any third offence for unauthorised absence a penalty notice will not be issued and the case will escalate straight to prosecution (Magistrates Court).
Magistrates fines can be up to £2500 per parent per child
- The threshold at which a penalty notice must be considered is set at 10 sessions (5 days).
This may include absences due to arriving late after the register closes, unexplained absences (no reasons provided by parents) or leave taken without request.

Absences can have a lasting effect on learning

Missing a week of school means your child will miss around 25 hours of learning.

This creates gaps in their knowledge

and could mean they will not meet their full potential