

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 **19th 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

[Working together to improve school attendance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)