



PENALTY NOTICE FINES FOR SCHOOL ABSENCE

With the introduction of the new national framework for penalty notices, the following changes will come into force for penalty notice fines issued for unauthorised absence that occurs after August 2024.

PER PARENT, PER CHILD

Penalty notice fines will be issued to each parent, for each child who was absent.

For example: three siblings absent for term time leave will result in **each** parent receiving three **separate** fines.

FIRST OCCASION

The first time a penalty notice is issued for term time leave or irregular attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child when paid within 28 days.

Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

5 CONSECUTIVE DAYS OF TERM TIME LEAVE

Penalty notice fines will be issued for term time leave of 5 or more consecutive days and for fewer days where this has happened before.



10 Sessions of Unauthorised Absence in a 10 week period

Penalty notice fines will be considered when there have been 10 sessions of absence in a 10 week period.

SECOND OCCASION (WITHIN 3 YEARS)

The second time a penalty notice is issued for term time leave or irregular attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child when paid within 28 days.

(No option to pay at £80 level)

THIRD OCCASION AND ANY FURTHER OCCASIONS (WITHIN 3 YEARS)

Within 3 years of the first occasion, if its a third occasion for unauthorised term time absence or irregular attendance a penalty notice will not be issued. The case will proceed to the magistrates' court. Magistrate's fines can be up to £2,500 per parent, per child.

Cases found guilty in the magistrates' court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate due to '*failure to safeguard a child's education*' and may impact on job applications and travel abroad.



Court prosecutions: Penalty notices will not automatically be issued. Parents are advised that where the local authority considers that a penalty notice is not appropriate due to the level of concern about a child's absence, prosecution action may be taken.