

Helping families to understand the changes to absences from school

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices (from 19th August 2024), the following changes have come into force for the Penalty Notice Fines issued for unauthorised absences/holidays recorded by schools.

WHO MAY BE FINED?

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/holiday receiving 3 separate fines.

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 (5 school days)** of unauthorised absence in 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, including the **U code** (*late after registers close*).

For example: a 5-day absence/holiday would meet the national threshold. The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.

HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME

1.

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for an unauthorised term time absence/holiday the fine amount will be:

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

2.

(Within 3 years)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for an unauthorised absence amount will be:

£160 per parent (*who allowed the holiday*) per child, payable within **28** days.

3.

(Within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed a Penalty Notice is not issued. Cases may be presented before a Magistrates Court. Prosecution may result in a criminal records and fines of up to **£2,500**.

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