Penalty notice fines for school attendance are changing from 19th 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 of school years.

Please note: The DFE does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure or recreation to be an exceptional circumstance.

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

The second time a Penalty notice is issued for the same child for unauthorised absence the amount will be:

£!60 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Third Offence and any further offense

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 record and fines of up to £2500.

Cases found guilty in Magistrate's court may show on 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.

***Parent**

Section 576 of the Education Act 1996 defines "parent" as:

- All natural (biological parents), whether they are married or not.
- Any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person.
- Any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person.