

# 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.
<b>Please note:</b> The DfE does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation to be an exceptional circumstance.

First Offence	Per Parent, Per Child
The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:  £160 per parent, per child paid with 28 days.  Reduced to £80 per child, per child if paid within 21 days.	Penalty notices are issued per parent for each child that was absent.  For example: 2 siblings absent from school for term time leave would result in each parent receiving 2 separate fines



Second Offence (within 3 years)	Parent “who is a parent?”
The Second time a penalty notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:  £160 per parent per child paid within 28 days. No discount will be offered.	Section 576 of the Education Act 1996 defines "parent" as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ All natural (biological) parents whether they are married or not.</li><li>➤ Any person who, although not a natural parent has responsibility for a child or young person.</li><li>➤ Any person who, although not a natural parent has care for a child or young person.</li></ul>



Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)
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 records and fines of up to £2,500

