

Attending school on time every day matters

Penalty Notices Fines for Unauthorised Absence are changing from 19 August 2024

The Department for Education has introduced a new national framework, that comes into force for any Penalty Notice issued from 19 August 2024.

Per parent, per child

Penalty Notices fines will be issued to each parent, for each child that was absent without authorisation.

National framework threshold

A Penalty Notice must be considered by all schools in England for: Unauthorised absence during a 10 school week period.

- 5 consecutive days (10 sessions) – one after the other.
- 10 non consecutive sessions – not one after the other.

The 10 school week period can go across different school terms or school years.

First offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued (after 19 August 2024) for unauthorised absence the amount will be:

- **£160** per parent, per child if paid within 28 calendar days.
- Discounted to **£80** per parent, per child if paid within 21 calendar days.

Second offence

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

- **£160** per parent, per child if paid within 28 calendar days.
- No discount for paying within 21 calendar days.

Third and any further offences

The third time an offence is committed a Penalty Notice will not be issued.

- The case will instead be presented straight to the Magistrate's Court.
- Prosecution can result in a criminal record and fine of up to £2,500.
- Cases where the defendant is found guilty in Magistrate's Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate as being due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.

