

Dear Parent/Carers,

Important Information for Parents - Changes to the issue of Penalty Notices to address School Attendance from 19th of August 2024: THE EDUCATION (PENALTY NOTICES) (ENGLAND) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2024 No. 210.

From **19.08.24** new legislation comes into force regarding the criteria for and the issue of penalty notices to address school attendance. A national framework for parental fines is being introduced for any pupil who misses 10 or more half-days within any 10-week period. **Please note that if you have requested a Leave of Absence that commences from September 2024 onwards, any Penalty Notice/s issued will be at the new rates and trigger the start of the three year threshold period, as specified below.**

The following changes have been made:

- the number of unauthorised absences that may trigger a potential fine: **10 unauthorised absences (5 days) in a 10 school week period.**
- the number of penalty notices that can be issued to a parent in respect of the same individual child: **a maximum of 2 penalty notices will be issued (per parent, per child) within a 3 year period**
- for the first penalty notice issued to each parent in respect of the same individual child in a 3-year period: **the amount of the penalty notice has increased from £120 to £160 if paid within 28 days and £60 to £80 if paid within 21 days**
- **any second penalty notice issued to the same parent in respect of the same individual child within 3 years of the date the first penalty notice issue is now set at £160 to be paid within 28 days – NB: No discount for earlier payment is offered.**
- **any further absences will proceed for prosecution in the Magistrate Court** for the same parent in respect of the same child within 3 years of the date of the first penalty was issued – The maximum fine the court can impose for a first offence is £1,000 per parent, per child. If, however, you have a history of offences of this nature you may be prosecuted under Section 444(1A) Education Act 1996 and the court can fine you up to £2,500 per child, order payment of the prosecution costs, impose a Parenting Order and/or sentence you to a period of imprisonment of up to 3 months. This reflects the seriousness of unauthorised absence from school.

Please speak to us if you have concerns about your child's attendance - we want to support you to address any barriers which prevent your child attending on time every day.

Yours sincerely,

O O'Beirne

Principal

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