



PENALTY NOTICE FINES FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CHANGES AS OF 19TH AUGUST 2024

Every moment in school counts. Evidence shows that children with good attendance enjoy better wellbeing and school performance. As you are aware, absence from school is only authorised for exceptional circumstances and we have no choice but to issue a Penalty Notice for unauthorised absence. Penalty Notices are issued separately to each parent for each child i.e. for a family with two children each parent would receive two penalty notices.

On 19th August 2024, the New National Framework for Penalty Notices was introduced. The new system is detailed below.

FINES WILL BE ISSUED FOR 10 SESSIONS OF UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE WITHIN A 10 WEEK PERIOD.

One day equals two sessions, (morning and afternoon registration), so one week of absence equates to 10 sessions. However, fines can still be issued for non consecutive unauthorised absences within the 10 week period. Please bear in mind that late arrivals more than 10 minutes after registration, are marked as 'Unauthorised Late After Registers Close' and count towards the unauthorised absence tally.

FIRST OFFENCE.

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the fine will be £160 per parent per child to be paid within 28 days.
However, if this is paid within 21 days it is reduced to £80 per parent per child.

SECOND OFFENCE WITHIN A THREE YEAR PERIOD

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence within a three year period, the fine will be £160 per parent per child to be paid within 21 days.
There is no option of a reduced fine.

FURTHER OFFENCES WITHIN A THREE YEAR PERIOD.

Any further offences within a three year period will not result in a Penalty Notice as the case will be referred straight to the Magistrates Court where fines can be up to £2500 per parent per child.

The Department for Education does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or other purpose of leisure, recreation as an exceptional circumstance.

**THE FOLLOWING REASONS ARE NOT DEEMED TO BE
'EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCE'**

- *My work does not allow me to take holidays during the school holiday period.*
- *My child needs a holiday at a quieter time due to their needs*
- *Our holiday has been gifted or paid for by someone else*
- *My child has 100% or good attendance*
- *We cannot afford to finance a holiday during the school holidays*

MESSAGE FROM HAWLEY PRIMARY

As you are aware, the Government are focusing heavily on school attendance and, together with Hampshire County Council dictate the 'rules' around Penalty Notices. This gives individual schools very little flexibility in authorising leave during term time. We are duty bound to adhere to this national directive which applies to all schools in England.

We are aware that these new rules are even stricter than before but we request that you think carefully before deciding to declare your child as ill to enable you to go away. The children always tell us about their holiday anyway and it will ruin your time away having to call us to update about pretend 'sickness' every day. If we have reason to believe you have taken holiday during a bout of 'illness' we can still mark this absence as unauthorised.

It is vitally important that your child attends school every day. Please work with us to ensure the best possible learning experiences for your child which then give everyone the opportunity to succeed in school and beyond.