

Friday 19th July

Dear Parents/carers

As you will be aware the Department of Education have published statutory guidance in relation to improving school attendance, which will apply from 19th August 2024. Please find below the key information, which we thought would be useful to share with you in advance of that date.

Fines for parents for taking children out of school: What you need to know:

Every moment in school counts and days missed add up quickly. Evidence shows that pupils who have good attendance enjoy better wellbeing and school performance than those who don't. There are only a few circumstances where a child is allowed to miss school, such as illness or where the school has given permission because of an exceptional circumstance. However, if your child misses school without a good reason, local councils and schools can intervene, and you may be issued a fine.

A new national framework will mean all councils have the same rules in place for when they need to consider a fine. Please see below for more information.

It's important to acknowledge that children with long-term medical or more serious mental health conditions, and those with special educational needs and disabilities may face additional barriers. For children who face complex barriers to attendance, schools should have sensitive conversations with children and families and work with them to put support in place for their individual needs.

How much could I be fined if my child misses school?

In most cases, schools and local authorities will try and provide support to help you improve your child's attendance, but if this isn't effective or the absence is for unauthorised term time holiday, parents may face paying a fine.

Currently, it's the responsibility of the local authority to decide when to issue fines to parents, meaning the process varies from council to council. However, under the new national framework, all schools will be required to consider a fine when a child has missed 10 or more sessions (5 days) for unauthorised reasons.

From August 2024, the fine for school absences across the country will be **£80 if paid within 21 days**, or **£160 if paid within 28 days**.

This rate is in line with inflation and is the first increase since 2012.

In the case of repeated fines, if a parent receives a second fine for the same child within any three-year period, this will be charged at the higher rate of £160.

Fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action like a parenting order or prosecution will be considered. If you are prosecuted and attend court because your child has not been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500.

Money raised via fines is only used by the local authority to cover the costs of administering the system, and to fund attendance support. Any extra money is returned to the government.

If you have any further queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact Mrs Townsend on 01909 472322.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely,



Miss R Jackson
Head of Academy