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**Helping Parents understand Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance**

From 19 August 2024, there is a National Framework for Penalty Notice Fines being issued for unauthorised absences recorded by schools

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| **National Threshold** |
| A single consistent national threshold for when a Penalty Notice must be considered by ALL schools in England, this is:   * 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 * For example, a 5-day unauthorised leave of absence would meet the national threshold * The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years |

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| **Who may be fined?** |
| * Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent who allows their child to be absent without authorisation from school * For example, 3 siblings absent for unauthorised leave during term-time would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines |

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| **First Offence** |
| The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence, the fine amount will be:   * £80 per parent, per child if paid **within 21 days** * If **not paid within 21 days**, the fine will increase to **£160 per parent, per child**, payable between the 22nd and 28th day |

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| **Second Offence (within 3 years)** |
| The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence, a reduced rate is not available. The amount therefore will be:   * £160 per parent, per child – payable within 28 days |

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| **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 will be presented **straight to the Magistrate’s Court**   * **Prosecution** can result in **criminal records** and **fines of up to £2,500** * Cases found **guilty** in a **Magistrates Court** can show on the parent’s future DBS certificate (Disclosure and Barring Service) due to a **‘failure to safeguard a child’s education’** |