**Unauthorising leave of absence – no application made**

**School Logo / Headed Paper / Sent from an official school email address with a clear email signature**

* **This communication should be pasted into the body of an email (rather than as an attachment), which should be sent with a read receipt requested;**
* **The ‘TO’ field of the email must be addressed to an individual parent (separate emails should be sent to each individual parent);**
* **The subject field should make clear the content of the communication. Please note parent/s email addresses must not be in the CC or BCC field;**
* **If being sent as a letter, please ensure the full address section is completed as per the below and send to each parent via first class royal mail post.**

**IMPORTANT POINTS FOR SCHOOL TO NOTE:**

* This communication should be sent as soon as the child returns to school.

Title, full forename name and surname

Full address

Full address

Postcode (ensure is accurate)

Date

Dear Title, Full Forename and Surname,

**RE: Pupil Name (Date of Birth)**

*For absence where no application made*

I have noted that CHILD FULL NAME was absent from DAY DATE MONTH YEAR to DAY DATE MONTH YEAR, a total of XX school days absent. We have tried to contact you with regard to these absences but have been unsuccessful.

You will already be aware from our school’s attendance policy and the Peterborough published Code of Conduct relating to school attendance, that the law requires parents to seek permission from the head teacher to take their child out of school during term time. The law states permission can only be granted if:

1. An application has been made in advance by the parent the child normally lives with; **and**
2. There are exceptional circumstances.

We have no record of an application for leave and have therefore taken the decision to record it as unauthorised leave taken for a term time holiday. It is our intention to refer the matter to Peterborough City Council for legal action in line with the National Framework as outlined below.

Please contact me by DAY DATE MONTH YEAR (must be at least 5 working days from date of the letter) to share any circumstances related to this absence which you believe to be exceptional. Should I not hear from you by the date stipulated above, or should the circumstances related to this absence not be deemed exceptional, I will refer the matter to the Local Authority for legal action.

Please visit the Peterborough City Council website and search for “penalty notices” for more information about the penalty notice fine levels and maximum penalty notice limits which are detailed within the Peterborough Code of Conduct.

Yours sincerely,

*Forename and Surname*

*Position held*

Telephone number: XXXXXXXXX

Email: XXXXXXXXX

NOTE ENSURE THE BELOW (SUMMARY OF LEGAL INTERVENTION) IS ENCLOSED/ATTACHED

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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 (Disclosure and Barring Service) certificate (Disclosure and Barring Service) due to a **‘failure to safeguard a child’s education’** |