

Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance are Changing

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into effect for Penalty Notice Fines issued after the 19 August 2024.

Penalty Notices are issued to change behaviours and reduce the number of school days lost during term time for the purpose of a holiday or unauthorised absence. The new pathways outline the decision-making process regarding the action that will be taken when a penalty notice referral is received from your child's school.

Pathway 1: FIRST OFFENCE

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for term time leave or irregular attendance the amount will be £160 per parent per child paid within 28 days. Reduced to £80 per parent per child if paid within 21 days.

Pathway 2: SECOND OFFENCE (WITHIN THREE YEARS)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for term time leave or irregular attendance, the amount will be £160 per parent per child within 28 days.

Pathway 3: THIRD OFFENCE AND ANY FURTHER OFFENCES (WITHIN THREE YEARS)

The third time an offence is committed for term time leave or irregular attendance, a Penalty Notice will not be issued and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court.

Magistrates' fines can be up to £2,500 per parent per child. Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate due to the "failure to ensure regular school attendance".

PER PARENT* PER CHILD

Penalty Notice Fines are issued on a per parent* per child basis.

For example, a fine for a parent with three children will result in receiving three invoices to the value of £160 each.

FIVE CONSECUTIVE DAYS OF TERM TIME LEAVE

Penalty Notice Fines will be issued for term time leave of five or more consecutive days.

10 SESSIONS OF UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE IN A 10 WEEK PERIOD

Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there have been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10 week period.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**


Department
for Education



Hull
City Council

*Parent - Anyone who has parental responsibility for the child and/or any adult with day-to-day care and responsibility.

1 A "parent" is defined as "...any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person. Having care of a child or young person means that a person with whom the child lives and who looks after the child, irrespective of what their relationship is with the child, is considered to be a parent in education law". Section 576 of the Education Act 1996