

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS / CARERS

# Penalty Notice Fines are changing for school non-attendance

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued **after 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024** academic year

### Per Parent, Per Child

Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent, for each child that was absent. For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

### National Threshold

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of 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.

The 10-school weeks period can span different terms or school years. Inset training days are school days and can be included in the 5 or more consecutive days where there was intent to be absent for term time leave.

### First Offence (within 3 years)

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:

- £160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days.
- Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

### Second Offence (within 3 years)

The Second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:

- £160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days

### Third Offence and Any further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed a Penalty Notice will not be used and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrate's Court.

- Prosecution can result in a criminal records and fines of up to £2,500.
- Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on a parent's future DBS certificate due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.

### Penalty notices are "not a Money-Making Scheme" The money does not go to schools!

Councils can use revenues to administer the fines system, and any surplus on "attendance support". Any remaining surplus at the end of the year must be paid to the secretary of state