

From 19 August 2024, the new National Framework for issuing penalty notices will apply

Per Parent, Per Child

E.g. 2 parents taking 3 children out of school for a leave of absence in term time would incur 3 penalty notices for each parent

S.576 Education Act 1996 defines a parent as all natural parents, not a natural parent but has parental responsibility, or has care of a child.

National Threshold

There will be a single national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools of 10 sessions (5 days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-week school period.

These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absences.

The 10-week school period can span different terms or school years.

1

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for a leave of absence in term time or irregular school attendance the Penalty Notice will be charged at:

£160 per parent, per child, to be paid within 28 days.

This is reduced to £80 per parent per child if paid within the first 21 days.

(Unpaid Penalty Notices after 28 days will result in a prosecution)

2

Second Offence

(within 3 years of the first offence)

Where it has been deemed appropriate to issue a second Penalty Notice to the same parent for the same pupil within 3 years of the first notice, the second Penalty Notice will be charge at:

£160 per parent per child to be paid within 28 days (there is no reduction for this)

(Unpaid Penalty Notices after 28 days will result in a prosecution)

3

Third Offence and any Further Offences

(within 3 years of the first offence)

The third time that any offence is committed and a sanction is requested for either a leave of absence or irregular attendance, a Penalty Notice will not be issued, the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates Court. Prosecution can result in criminal records and fines up to £2,500.

Cases found guilty in the Magistrates Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate, due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.