

4 UPDATES

Attendance updates from September 2024



01 £80 FINES AND IMPROVEMENT NOTICES

Absence fines charged to parents will rise from £60 to £80, or £160 if not paid within 21 days. From Autumn term 2024, only two fines can be issued to the same parent for the same child within a three-year rolling period. Any notice thereafter will automatically be charged at £160. Parents will also receive "improvement notices", where they are informed that this is their last opportunity to engage with education and improve their child's attendance before a fine is issued.



03 LONG-TERM SICKNESS TO BE FLAGGED WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Schools will have to give councils the name and address of sick pupils who they believe will miss 15 consecutive or cumulative days. Schools will also be "expected to inform a pupil's social worker and/or youth offending team worker if there are unexplained absences from school".

If your child is ever absent from school, we ask you to phone us or talk to us before 9am to let us know why your child is absent.

The number to phone is: 01453 542304

Where there is an unexplained absence at school, we will always follow this up with a phone call to find out why your child is absent and when we can expect them to return. It is essential we know why your children are not in school in order to work together to keep them safe and well.

Mrs Gregory and Mrs Delmaine are available to help with any attendance support. You can make an appointment and we will do all we can to help.

02

NATIONAL FINE THRESHOLDS

From September, schools will have to consider a fine if a pupil misses 10 sessions (half days) of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks. They should "not have a blanket position of issuing or not issuing penalty notices". The threshold can be met with "any combination of unauthorised absence". For example, four sessions in term time plus six instances of arriving late.



04

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

All schools should now be particularly mindful of pupils absent from school due to mental or physical ill health or their special educational needs and/or disabilities and provide them with additional support. The guidance acknowledges "many children will experience normal but difficult emotions that make them nervous about attending school, such as worries about friendships, schoolwork, examinations or variable moods". But it is "important to note that these pupils are still expected to attend school regularly".



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