

CITY OF DONCASTER COUNCIL –
MOMENTS MATTERS, ATTENDANCE COUNTS

Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance are Changing!

The Department for Education (DFE) will introduce a new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force after 19th August 2024.

Penalty notices will be considered for 5 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 combination of any type of unauthorised absence. The 10-school week period can span different terms or schools' years.

First Offence.

The amount will be: £160 per parent, per child when paid within 28 days. Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

Penalty notices will be issued for each parent, for each child that was absent.

For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave will result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

Second Offence (within three years)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for.

the amount will be: £160 per parent, per child when paid within 28 days.

(No option to pay at £80 level)

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 may be presented straight to the Magistrates Court under s.444 of the Education Act (1996) or other legal interventions considered. The Magistrates' Court can order fines up to £2500 per parent per child.

Cases found guilty in the Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS Certificate and may impact on job applications and travel abroad.

Court prosecutions:

Penalty Notices will not automatically be issued they will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Parents are advised that where the LA considers that a Penalty Notice is not appropriate due to the level of concern about a child's absence, prosecution action may be taken or other legal interventions.