

Important information for Parents, changes as of 19th August 2024 to the issue of Penalty Notices for Non-School attendance.

Dear Parent,

The Education (Penalty Notices) (ENGLAND) (AMENDMENT) Regulations 2024 No. 210

New Legislation comes into force on 19th August 2024 regarding the issuing of penalty notices relating to none school attendance. The following changes will come into force for penalty notice fines issued after 19th August 2024.

New National Threshold

There will be a single National Threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England and Wales of 10 sessions of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period.

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

From **19th August 2024**, the fine for school absences across the country will be **£160 discounted to £80 if paid within 21 days, or £160 if paid within 28 days.**

If a parent receives a second fine for the same child within any three-year period, this will be charged at the higher rate of £160 with no discount given for early repayment.

1. The **first time** a penalty notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be £160 per parent, per child, discounted to £80 if paid within 21 days.
2. The **second time** a penalty notice is issued for unauthorised absence (within 3 years) the amount will be £160 per parent, per child, paid within 28 days.

Any term time holidays that are taken after the start of the 2024/25 academic year will be treated under the new Legislation as the new rules apply to any offences committed from 19 August 2024, regardless of when the holiday is booked.

Should a **third absence** be taken within the three-year period, a parent may be summonsed to the Magistrates Court for knowingly failing to secure good attendance at school (Section 444 (1A) of Education Act 1996).

For more information please see the following:

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2024/02/29/fines-for-parents-for-taking-children-out-of-school-what-you-need-to-know/>

Salford local authority and schools are committed to providing the best possible future for your child. If you have concerns about your child's attendance at school or if you are experiencing any difficulties, please contact your school and ask for support.