

Penalty notices for absence from school are changing.

The new government National Framework for Penalty Notices (fines) for unauthorised absences from school starts on **19 August 2024.**

A parent/carer will receive up to two penalty notices for unauthorised absence over a three-year period for each child.

Penalty Notices are issued to each parent/carer for each child where there is unauthorised absence from school. For example, two parents of two children will have four separate fines.

When is a penalty notice issued?

When a pupil of statutory school age has 10 or more sessions (half days) of unauthorised absence from school in a 10 week period.

What is unauthorised absence?

A child's absence from school is unexplained or the school has not agreed the absence. For example:

- Arriving late after register closes
- A holiday in term time
- No reason provided for the absence
- Other absence the school has not agreed to

How much will the fine be?

- First offence penalty - £160 per parent per child. Reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.
- Second offence penalty (within three years) - £160 per parent per child paid within 28 days.
- Third offence and further offences within three years. The third time unauthorised absence happens a penalty notice can't be issued and the case goes to magistrates court. Magistrates fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child.

I need help to support my child to attend school.

Speak to your school as they will work with you to support your child to return to school. You can also contact the Education Welfare Service for advice:

EWS@wiltshire.gov.uk