



Date: 09/05/2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Gateshead Council considers children's attendance at school to be of great importance and will always seek to work in partnership with schools and parents in order to reduce absences, before taking more formal measures.

We would, however, like to take this opportunity to share some important changes to School Attendance Penalty Notices (DfE) which will come into effect from 19th August 2024, which we must adhere to.

This will affect the rules around penalty notices issued to parents for their child's poor school attendance, including holidays taken during term time.

What are the changes?

Issuing of a Penalty Notice:

There is a new national threshold of 10 unauthorised sessions, within a rolling 10 school week period.

Increase in Penalty Notice amount:

Previous Fine	Reduced if paid within 21 days	New Fine	Reduced if paid within 21 days
£120	£60	£160	£80

Escalation in cases of repeat offences

Any second penalty notice issued to the same parent for the same child within a rolling 3 year period, will be charged at the higher rate of £160 with no option for this second offence to be discharged at the lower rate of £80.

Limited number of penalty notices per parent

A national limit of 2 penalty notices can be issued to a parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period. At the 3rd (or subsequent) offence(s) another tool, such as prosecution, will be considered.

For more information please see: [Fines for parents for taking children out of school: What you need to know – The Education Hub \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

Regards,

Victoria Cramman
Strategic Lead Education Support Service
Gateshead Council