

## Your Legal <br> Responsibility

If your child does not attend school regularly the Local Authority can take action against you. This can be through a Penalty Notice (fine) or a summons to appear at Magistrates Court.

## What is a Penalty Notice?

The Anti-Social Behaviour Act (2003) introduced legislation for Local Authorities to issue Penalty Notices to parents/carers of pupils who have unauthorised absences from school.

## A Penalty Notice can be issued

for two reasons:

- If a holiday is taken during term time without the prior permission of the Head teacher
- If a pupil has 10 or more sessions of unauthorised absence from school and their parent/carer fails to cooperate with school staff and/or other professionals to improve the situation.


## What are the fines?

$£ 120$ per parent/carer reduced to $£ 60$ if paid within 21 days. If the $£ 120$ is not paid within 28 days a summons can be issued to appear in Magistrates' Court.
The Local Authority can decide whether to issue a summons to Magistrates' Court instead of issuing a Penalty Notice.

## For more information contact:

Attendance Team
01618602999
attendance@wrhs1118.co.uk
Full Attendance Policy available at: https://wrhs1118.co.uk/wp-content/ uploads/2018/10/Trust-Student-Attendance-Policy-V1.2.pdf

## ATTENDANGE MATTERS

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Aim for $100 \%$ attendance for a better future

## EVERY STUDENT, <br> EVERY DAY

Parents/carers are legally responsible for ensuring their child attends school on time every day.

## Too ill to attend school?

Children can still attend school with minor ailments such as toothache, headache, stomach-ache and period pains that can be treated with over the counter medicines.

School will contact you if your child becomes to ill too remain in. If you are unsure how long your child should be absent, speak to the attendance office, your doctor or your pharmacist for advice.

## Medical Appointments

All routine appointments should be

booked outside of school hours.
Where this is not possible, the amount of time
missed must be kept to a minimum. School will not authorise for appointments if evidence is not provided.
There is a strong link between attendance and attainment. Regardless of the reason, if your child is absent from school it will impact on their learning.

## Leave of Absence

## Children are not entitled to take holidays in term

 time. Family holidays should be taken during school holiday periods.Requests for leave due to exceptional circumstances must be made in writing with 10 days notice, using a Leave of Absence

form, available from the
Attendance Office.
Fines of $£ 120$ per parent/carer reduced to $£ 60$ if paid within 21 days may be issued where unauthorised leave has been taken. Unpaid fines may result in court proceedings.

## Reporting Absence

It is your responsibility to notify school if your child is absent. A reason must be provided by 8.30am on the first day. Unreported or prolonged absences may be followed up by a home visit from an Attendance Officer.

If your child has attendance below $90 \%$, has recorded 20 or more sessions of illness already or has been absent for 5 or more consecutive days you will be asked to provide medical evidence before absence can be authorised. This could be in the form of an appointment card and prescribed medicine, Dr's note or hospital letter.

## Examples of Unauthorised Absence :

| Holidays | Parent / Sibling illness |
| :--- | :--- |
| Day trips | Birthdays Shopping |
| Hair cuts | Routine appointments |

## Persistent Absence

At Whalley Range 11-18 High School, we strive for 98 $-100 \%$ attendance. Any child falling below this figure will be closely monitored by the Attendance Team,
especially where absence is unauthorised.
Any child with attendance below $90 \%$,
(regardless of the reason for the absence), is considered to be a Persistent Absentee. This equates to 19 days over an academic year.

Over a five year period a child whose attendance is at $90 \%$, will miss the equivalent of half a school year; that's a lot of lost education!

Persistent absence will be monitored weekly and an EHA (Early Help Assessment) offered by school. Where unauthorised absence is recorded, parents may receive an appointment to attend a meeting in school with the Attendance Officer .

A Penalty Notice or legal proceedings may be issued if 10 or more sessions of unauthorised absence are recorded.

## Punctuality

Being on time is the product of proper planning, personal discipline and a respect for other people's time.

It is important that your child arrives on time. every day. Arriving late is unsettling for the rest of the class and results in missing vital instructions at the start of the day.


