

PENALTY NOTICE FINES FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ARE CHANGING



What is not changing?

Penalty Notice Fines will continue to be issued to each parent, for each child that was absent. For example, two siblings who had irregular attendance or Term Time Absence, would result in each parent receiving two separate fines. You are required to submit a request for any Leave of Absence (Term Time Absence) in writing at least 15 school days in advance. Leave can only be granted in exceptional circumstances, and this is rare. Requests should be sent via email to attendance@tca.shirelandcat.net. Any Leave of Absence taken without a request, will still automatically be unauthorised, as schools cannot authorise retrospectively. **No travel arrangements should be made prior to a request being made.**

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued after 19 August 2024

National Threshold

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (5 school 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 a combination of any type of unauthorised absence. The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.

FIRST TIME OFFENCE

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or irregular attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent per child if paid within 28 days, reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

SECOND OFFENCE (WITHIN 3 YEARS)

The second time a penalty notice is issued for Term Time Leave or irregular attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent per child to be paid within 28 days. No reduced rate will be offered.

THIRD OFFENCE AND ANY FUTURE OFFENCES (WITHIN 3 YEARS)

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or irregular attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued. The case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child. Other actions such as parenting orders will also be considered.

Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on a future DBS certificate, due to failure to safeguard a child's education (educational neglect).