



## Parent Information

### Key messages on school attendance

From **19 August 2024** new rules apply to school attendance. These are covered in the Department for Education mandatory guidance and new regulations.

#### 1. £80 fines

- Absence fines charged to parents will rise from £60 per parent per child to £80, or £160 if not paid within 21 days.
- Only two fines can be issued to the same parent for the same child within a three-year rolling period. Any second notice will automatically be charged at £160.
- Further absences will proceed to prosecution in the Magistrates Court for the same parent in respect of the same child within three years of the date of the first penalty notice was issued.

#### 2. National fine thresholds

- From September, if a pupil misses 10 sessions (half days) of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 weeks, schools can consider fining parents.

#### 3. Flag long-term sick leave

Schools will provide information to councils (LAs) regarding the name and address of sick pupils who miss 15 consecutive or cumulative days.

#### 4. No more 'H' code

- Ministers felt that holidays in term time for recreational or leisure purposes were not exceptional circumstances. The H code (holiday authorised by the school) has now been disbanded.
- Parents must notify schools about intention of a leave of absence and in advance of any intended absence by the school's set process i.e. formal written request.

**NOTE:** Requests for leave of absence must be made in advance and will only be considered in exceptional circumstances. Any leave taken without authorisation will be marked 'unauthorised', which may lead to legal action being taken against the parent.

**If you have any questions about these changes, or you would like to discuss your child's school attendance, then please contact Lesley Cater, Valence Primary School, Attendance Manager. Thank you.**

Further information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance>