

## National Framework for Penalty Notices for School Absence

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am taking this opportunity to write to inform you of some important changes the Government have introduced regarding school attendance and the issuing of penalty notices when children are absent from school.

A new National Framework for Penalty Notices has been introduced. The regulations came into effect on the 19th of August 2024. The aim is to improve consistency in the use of penalty notices across England.

The National Framework includes:

- A single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) for any unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period. The 10-week period may span different terms or school years. For example, 2 sessions of unauthorised absence in the summer term and a further 8 within the autumn term.
- An increase to the rate of a penalty notice from £120 to £160 if paid within 28 days and £60 to £80 if paid within 21 days. If a second penalty notice is issued to the same parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period, the notice 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.
- A national limit of 2 penalty notices that can be issued to a parent for the same child within a rolling 3 year period, so at the 3rd (or subsequent) offence(s) another tool must be considered (such as prosecution or another attendance legal interventions).

To avoid any misconceptions, if a penalty notice is issued, the school will not receive any of that money. This is legislation from the government.

At Christ Church Walshaw we believe that good attendance is essential to support your child in getting the most out of their education and we thank you for your continued support.

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- **Children who attend 100% are 5 times more likely to work at, or above, the expected standard –**
- **Data from 2019 shows that 84% of Key Stage 2 pupils who had 100% attendance achieved the expected standard, compared to 40% of pupils who were persistently absent across the key stage.**
- **Missing a week for a holiday leaves children at a disadvantage to their peers, with gaps in their learning**

We thank you for your continued co-operation,

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Beck  
Attendance Lead