



Date:

Dear parent/carer,

Gateshead Council would like to take this opportunity to share important changes to School Attendance Penalty Notices.

You may already be aware of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices that will come into effect from 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

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

**New national threshold when a penalty notice must be considered**

10 unauthorised sessions within a rolling 10 school week period.

These periods can span terms and academic years.

**Increase in penalty amount for each child to each parent**

£160 pounds if paid within 28 days;  
reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.

**Escalation in cases of repeat offenders**

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 \(blog.gov.uk\)](https://www.blog.gov.uk/2024/08/19/what-you-need-to-know-about-the-new-school-attendance-penalty-notice-rules/)

Regards,

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