



Executive Headteacher
Mrs C Middleton

St Luke's C.E. (Aided) Primary School, Shireoaks

'great oaks from little acorns'

Brancliffe Lane
Shireoaks
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Tel: (01909) 475821

25 June 2024

Dear Parent/Carers

Important Changes to Fixed Penalty Notices from August 2024

There have been some significant changes in the law and I would like to make you aware of the changes that the Government have made regarding school absence and penalty notices (fines) across the country.

School will always try and provide support to help you improve your child's attendance, but if this isn't effective or the absence is for unauthorised term time holiday, parents/carers may face paying a fixed penalty notice (fine).

Under the new national framework, all schools will be required to consider a fine when a child has missed 10 or more sessions (5 days) for unauthorised reasons. Inset /training days are school days and can be included in the 5 or more days where there was intent to be absent for term time.

From August 2024 the penalty notice (fine) for school absences across the country will be **£80 if paid within 21 days, or £160 if paid within 28 days (per parent, per child).**

In the case of repeated fines, **if a parent receives a second fine for the same child within any three year period** this will be charged at the higher rate of £160 per parent, per child within 28 days.

Fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action like a parenting order or prosecution will be considered. If you are prosecuted this means you have to go to court. You could get a fine, a community order or a jail sentence up to 3 months. The court could also give you a parenting order.





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IMPORTANT –Where we believe that a child has been on holiday rather than being ill, we may request that Notts County Council issue a fixed penalty notice. It will then be up to parent/carers to provide evidence to the contrary. It may also be necessary as part of our safeguarding obligations to follow up any absences with 'safe and well' visits to check in where there is an absence of more than a few days.

Please note that schools **do not** receive any money from issuing fines. Money raised via fines is only used by the local authority to cover the costs of administering the system and to fund attendance support. Any extra money is returned to the government.

I am sure you will support the school's aim to help your child reach their full potential by attending school as much as possible and we hope we can rely on your help and support.

Yours Faithfully

Mrs C Middleton
Executive Headteacher



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