



Birches First School

Believe, Grow, Succeed ...

...to be the best 'me' I can be.

Birches Avenue
Codsall

Wolverhampton

WV8 2JG

01902 297910

www.birches.staffs.sch.uk
office@birches.staffs.sch.uk



Attendance Changes from August 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Attendance is a national as well as a local concern. Government figures published recently confirmed that in the Autumn term of 2023, 16 percent of primary pupils were classed as persistently absent. From August 2024, schools' daily registers will be shared online with the DfE and LAs as part of the government's drive to improve attendance and the following changes regarding attendance documentation and regulations will also come into force from August 2024.

It is imperative that parents and carers understand these changes at the earliest opportunity, as we know that some parents may be considering booking holidays now which will no doubt apply for the new school year. **Holidays in term time are not permitted and cannot be authorised.**

The regulations will be as follows: -

There is a limit of two penalties and escalation in cases of repeat offences. A penalty notice is an out of court settlement which is intended to change behaviour without the need for criminal prosecution. Therefore, from Autumn term 2024, only 2 penalty notices can be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within a 3-year rolling period and any second notice within that period is charged at a higher rate.

The first penalty notice issued to a parent in respect of a particular pupil will be charged at £160. This will be reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days. (The £60 fine was introduced in 2013 and has not been increased in the 11 years since.) A second penalty notice issued to the same parent in respect of the same pupil is charged at a flat rate of £160 if paid within 28 days.

A third penalty notice cannot be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within 3 years of the date of issue of the first. In a case where the national threshold is met for a third time (or subsequent times) within those 3 years, alternative action should be taken instead. This can include considering prosecution but may include other tools such as one of the other attendance legal interventions.

Please note that the school is merely the administrator of the penalty notice, we do not benefit from this in any fashion. Funds gained from any penalty notices are not given to individual schools, but rather to the local authorities.

From August 2024 this will be the process that has to be followed, so parents should familiarise themselves with the information contained within the letter and understand the implications of taking their child out of school during term time.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Varricchione

Headteacher