

The Newman Catholic Collegiate



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Catholic Senior Executive Leader: Mr Ian Beardmore

Friday 12th July 2024

Dear Parents,

I have written to you many times about how important it is for children to be in school and on time. Research clearly shows that children who attend school regularly get better grades and feel happier and healthier. This is why it's so important to build these habits early. Attending school is very important.

From August 19th this year, the Government is changing its rules and increasing fines for children missing school without permission. If a child misses 5 days (10 sessions) without permission, there will be a fine. Unauthorised absences include holidays, being late, and any other absences not approved by the Principals.

As part of the new procedures, the school may carry out a home visit if a child is absent for *any* reason. Please do not be upset if we visit your house. We are doing this to check on your child's wellbeing, following Government guidelines.

I am writing to you now to make sure holidays are not booked during term time next year, as this **will** result in a fine.

Please understand that it is not the school or the Collegiate that issues the fines; this is done by the Local Authority. The money from these fines goes directly to the Local Authority. Whilst we are reluctant to issue fines, we must follow Government rules and want to support you in building good habits and giving your children the best chance to do well in school.

I have attached a poster to this letter listing the fines, but simply put, the new fines will be as follows:

- For a first offence of 5 unauthorised days of absence, the fine will be £80 per parent, per child (if paid within 28 days).
- For a second offence of 5 unauthorised days of absence within 3 years of the previous fine, the fine will be £160 per parent, per child.
- For a third offence of 5 unauthorised days of absence within a 3-year period, parents will be taken to Magistrates' Court. Prosecution can lead to a criminal record and fines of up to £2500 per parent, per child. If found guilty, this would appear on a DBS certificate for 'failure to safeguard a child's education.'

Attendance is more important than ever, and I urge you to support our school and your child's education by ensuring that they attend school during term time.

Thank you for your continued support.

Ian Beardmore
Catholic Senior Executive Leader
The Newman Catholic Collegiate

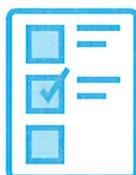


Important Information

Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance are changing

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines **issued after 19th August 2024**.

School attendance is important. Regular attendance links directly to pupil outcomes, which is why our academies work with families to ensure that all our pupils are supported to attend school regularly. Academies will focus on a *support first* model, by ensuring penalty notices are only considered where support is not engaged with, not working or not appropriate.



Per Parent, Per Child

Penalty Notice Fines will be issued to each parent for each child that was absent.

For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

5 Consecutive days of term time leave

The National Threshold for Penalty Notice Fines for term time leave will be for 5 or more consecutive days.

10 sessions of unauthorised absence (equivalent to 5 school days) in a 10-week period

The National Threshold for Penalty Notice Fines is 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period. The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.

These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of any combination of any type of unauthorised absence. This could, for example, include 6 sessions of holiday taken, 2 sessions of unauthorised absence and 2 of arriving late after registration has closed.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for term time leave, or for unauthorised absence, the amount will be:

- £160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.
- Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

Second Offence

within 3 years

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for term time leave, or unauthorised absence, the amount will be:

- £160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Third Offence

and any further offences within 3 years

The third time an offence is committed for term time leave, or unauthorised absence a Penalty Notice will NOT be issued and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Prosecution can result in criminal records and fines up to £2,500 per parent, per child.

Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate, due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.

