



ST OSWALD'S C of E ACADEMY

Silver Birch Grove, Finningley, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN9 3EQ

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www.stoswaldsacademy.co.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mrs S Patton NPQH

Head of School: Mrs H Lambert NPQH



17th July 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Term Time Holidays and Fixed Penalty Notices

We write to you to inform you of some changes the Government has made to the way in which holidays and fines are given.

All schools have seen an increase in the number of term time holidays taken by families. Very occasionally, there are some very extreme personal circumstances which justify some time away from school during term time. However, the vast majority are taken to reduce costs.

The Government has now increased the level of fine (Fixed Penalty Notice) from August 2024 through their new National Framework. The key information can be found on the back of this letter. Please know that these changes are not school decisions, but we are bound by them.

Luckily, we are blessed at St Oswald's to have great relationships with our families and who are honest about their holidays. Even with these changes that are out of our control, we still urge parents to remain transparent about holidays to maintain this good communication.

If school have reasons to suspect a holiday has been taken but recorded as illness, a fine may still be referred to the Local Authority.

Yours sincerely

Sharon Patton

Executive Headteacher

Hannah Lambert

Head of School





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Pupil attendance is important

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

Per parent, per child

Penalty Notices Fines will now 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.

10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period

Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there has been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period.

First offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for term time leave or irregular attendance 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 irregular attendance 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 irregular attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to Magistrates Court. Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 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.

