



**Winscombe Primary School**

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs Lorna Richardson

Dear Parent/carer,

### **Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance are Changing!**

North Somerset have sent through the following information to explain the changes happening, we advise you read this carefully.

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the below changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines that are accrued after 19th August 2024.

Education Penalty Notices are issued to the parents of statutory school age children.

#### **Per parent, per child**

Penalty Notice Fines will be issued to each parent, for each child that was absent from school without prior approval by the school.

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

#### **5 days of term time leave**

Penalty Notice Fines will be issued for Term Time Leave of 5 or more days which have not been authorised by the school.

#### **10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period**

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

<b>First Offence</b>	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.
<b>Second Offence (within 3 years)</b>	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.
<b>Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)</b>	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 the 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'.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Richardson

Executive Headteacher



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