

Summer 2

This is our final Attendance Newsletter until September 2024. We finish this academic school year with **92.57%** attendance across Y1-Y6. The government expect schools to achieve at least **97% or above**. We haven't achieved the target and this can be for various reasons. St Finbar's will continue to promote excellent attendance and punctuality.

Regular attendance is very important for children to achieve the best they can. If children are absent from school, it not only affects their education but they will miss out on the social side of school which affects their ability to make and keep friends and can dent their self-confidence to attempt new work and work alongside each other. Let's make next school year even better and strive to improve our attendance %.

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.

Per Parent, Per Child

Penalty Notice 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.

5 consecutive days of term time leave

Penalty Notice Fines will be issued for Term Time Leave of 5 or more consecutive days. Inset training days are school days and can be included in the 5 or more consecutive days where there was intent to be absent for term time leave.

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 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'.

Safeguarding

St Finbar's expect Parents/Carers to keep in contact regarding their child's absence. If we do not hear from you we will come out and do a safeguarding check. This is in our Attendance Policy and standard practice in all schools. It is always about establishing the safety of the child.

Holiday and Unauthorised absence

St Finbar's **does not authorise** holidays during term time and any taken will receive a holiday penalty notice fine. If unauthorised absence becomes a problem (absent from school without school's permission), then the school will submit a fixed penalty notice for this too.

100% Attendance all year from September 2023

- Bobb (N)
- Rhea (R)
- Ayla (Y2)
- Milion and Elijah (Y3)
- Fanuel, Keniel & Joanna (Y4)
- Yadiail, Yodit & Lara (Y5)

Well done, children!

The Attendance Team: Miss Williams, Mr Millington, Mrs Dudley and Mrs Monahan.

We are contactable on: (0151) 727 3963. Please get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

