



Hawes Side Academy

Principal: Mrs C Boothroyd
B.Ed (Hons) NPQH

Johnsville Avenue,
Blackpool, FY4 3LN

(Registration No.8161246)

17th July 2024

Important Information for Parents/Carers

Changes to Education Related Penalty Notices

You may be aware that the Department of Education has recently announced national changes to the penalty notices issued for unauthorised absences during school term time. *These changes take effect on the 19th August 2024.*

Important changes to be aware of:

- Penalty notices issued for 'offences' that take place after the 19th August 2024 will be charged at the rate of **£160 per parent per child**. This can be paid at a lesser rate of £80 if settled within 21 days
- Any **2nd penalty notice** issued to the same parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period will be **issued at the rate of £160** to be paid within 28 days and **NO discounted rate option**
- The threshold of which a penalty notice is considered for issue is **10 sessions (equivalent of 5 days)** of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period. This may also include absences as a result of arriving late after registration closes. Be aware the 10 school week period may span different term times and academic years
- A maximum of 2 penalty notices may be issued to a parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period. The 3rd (or subsequent) 'offence' will follow another course of action such as prosecution or other legal attendance initiatives
- Only absences taken after the 19th August 2024 will count towards the above thresholds
- The money from penalty notices go to Blackpool Council and not to Hawes Side Academy.

To summarise, Blackpool Council will seek to issue notices from the 19th August 2024. They will be issued on the basis that a child has missed 5 days during an academic term time (unauthorised absence) and these can also include late marks, where a child arrives after the register closes. The rate is £160 per parent per child. You can receive a penalty notice if absences occur within a 10-week rolling school period and these rolling periods can carry over into terms and academic years.

Absences can have a lasting effect on learning

Missing a week of learning will mean missing 25 hours of learning which could impact on their potential for educational growth and cause gaps in their knowledge

Every day matters!

Any further information can be obtained from Blackpool Council. Contact information can be found by using this link

[School attendance \(blackpool.gov.uk\)](https://blackpool.gov.uk/school-attendance)

"Everyone Matters, Everyone Succeeds"