



St. George's School

A Church of England Academy

'Our vision is to be outstanding through the provision of consistent academic excellence within a caring, Christian community'

Headteacher: Mr G Warnock

Cherry Tree Road, Marton, Blackpool, FY4 4PH. Tel: 01253 316725

July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Important Update - Changes to Education-related Penalty Notices

You may be aware that the Department for Education has recently announced national changes to support improved attendance in all schools. There are several changes to penalty notices issued for unauthorised absence in term time.

These changes come into effect on 19th August 2024 so will impact our school community from 3rd September 2024. Please read the below information and if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the school.

Fines for parents taking children out of school: What you need to know

Every moment in school counts and days missed add up quickly. Evidence shows that pupils who have good attendance enjoy better wellbeing and school performance than those who don't. If your child misses school without a good reason, for example a holiday, local councils and schools can intervene and you will be issued a fine. The Department for Education have introduced a new national framework which will mean all councils have the same rules in place for when they need to consider a fine.

First penalty: From August 2024, the fine for school absences across the country will be **£80 if paid within 21 days**, or **£160 if paid within 28 days**. This will be issued to each parent for each child.

Second penalty: In the case of repeated fines, if a parent receives a second fine for the same child within any three-year period, **this will be charged at the higher rate of £160 with no reduction for early payment**. Again this will be issued to each parent for each child.

Further penalties: Fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other actions like a parenting order or prosecution will be considered. If you're prosecuted and attend court because your child hasn't been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500.



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

We would like to thank you for your unwavering support and partnership in ensuring your child's consistent attendance and success in school.

Yours faithfully,

Attendance Team