

Holidays during term time: What the new rules mean for me



From September 2024, the new National Framework for issuing penalty notices will apply.



As a school, we fully appreciate the financial difficulties that some parents face when booking holidays, particularly during school holidays.

However, school is duty bound to comply with the regulations set by the local authority and national protocols.

A Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) is a fine which may be issued for taking children out of school during term time for the purpose of leisure or recreation.



Second Offence

(Within 3 years of the first offence)

Where it is deemed appropriate to issue a second Penalty Notice to the same parent for the same pupil within 3 years of the first notice. The second Penalty Notice will be charge at:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days (Unpaid Penalty Notices after 28 days may result in a prosecution)

Example: We are a family of 2 children and 2 parents.

Child 1	child 2	Parent 1	Parent 2	
£160	£160	£320	£320	= £640

The 10 school week period may span different terms or school years (e.g. 2 sessions of unauthorised absence in the Summer Term and a further 8 within the Autumn Term).

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for a Term Time Holiday or Irregular School Attendance, the Penalty Notice will be charged at:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days. Reduced to £80 per parents, per child if paid within 21 days

Example: I'm a single parent of 2 children and we want to go on holiday for a week in term time.

Your holiday will not be authorised and you should speak to school before booking because your child will miss 5 school days, you will be issued a penalty notice fine.



Child 1	child 2	Parent
£160	£160	£320

The initial fine is £320 but if paid within 21 days it will be reduced to £160

Third Offence

(Within 3 years of the First Offence)

The third time that an offence is committed for either a term time holiday and/or irregular attendance, a Penalty Notice will not be issued. The case may be proceeded straight to prosecution/court.

The 3 year period can cover primary and secondary school periods eg: first offence in year 5 of primary and 2nd offence in year 7.



For more information:
www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/education-and-learning/early-years-and-childcare/education-welfare-service/fixd-penalty-notices/taking-children-on-holiday-during-term-time

