

National threshold

There will be a single, consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to five school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period.

For example: a five day holiday would meet the national threshold.

The 10 school week period can span different terms or school years.

Who may be fined?

Penalty notice fines are issued to each parent who allows their child to be absent from school.

For example: three siblings absent for term time leave would result in each parent who allowed the holiday receiving three separate fines.

First offence

The first time a penalty notice is issued for an unauthorised term time holiday, the fine amount will be:

**£80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days,
increasing to £160 if paid between days 22-28.**

Second offence (within three years)

The second time a penalty notice is issued for unauthorised absence, the amount will be:

£160 per parent (who allowed the holiday), per child, payable within 28 days.

Third offence and any further offences (within three years)

The third time an offence is committed, a penalty notice will not be issued and local authorities will need to consider other available measures to address the absence concerns. **This may mean that cases are presented before a Magistrate's Court.**

Prosecution can result in criminal records and fines of up to £2,500 and/or a term of imprisonment not exceeding three months.