

Dear Parents and Carers,

Attendance changes from August 2024

We are writing to you because the Department for Education (DfE) has recently introduced new attendance guidance for managing and supporting school attendance. Part of these changes include a national framework for penalty notices and an amendment to the law. New statutory guidance came into effect as of 19th August 2024 which all schools are expected to follow.

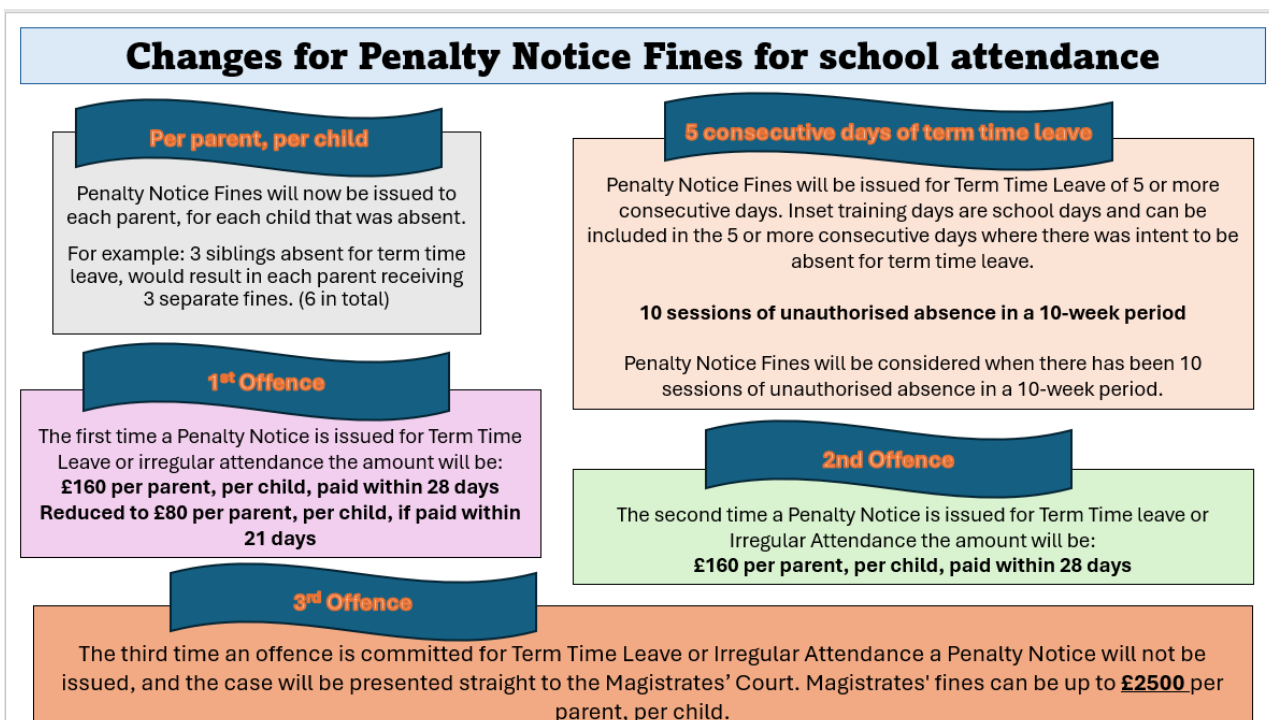
The new guidance has come into effect as a result of falling attendance across the country due to increased levels of illness, mental health difficulties and emotional based school non-attendance. There are evident links between low attendance and low attainment. Missed attendance can result in:

- Developing gaps in learning, knowledge and understanding
- Missed opportunities for social interactions and friendships
- Anxiety due to changes of routines
- Missed opportunities to complete pieces of work
- Missed revision of topics

Here at Cheddington School we are lucky to be supported by a community that value the importance of education and our attendance rate is 96% which is in line with the national expectation of 95%.

Up until this point in time we have chosen not to issue fines to families for periods of absence, however penalty fines are now issued directly by the Local Authority and all schools are required to report absences when a child has missed 10 sessions (5 school days) for unauthorised reasons. If your child is poorly this is considered an authorised absence however, persistent lateness is not authorised.

The details of what this means going forward are listed on the diagram below:



We appreciate that these changes may seem sudden. For most of you, this will have little impact, however if your child is struggling to attend school please do speak with your child's teacher as we welcome the opportunity to discuss and support you with this as we are aware of the challenges this will bring.

School continues to be required to consider requests for absence in term time and we will happily discuss these requests with you, but we would like to clarify that a family holiday is unable to be supported by the school.

We thank you for your continued support in this area and understanding that attendance at school should always be encouraged.

Yours sincerely,

The Governing Board