



Non-Attendance Fines

AN INFORMATION SHEET BY THE TRAVELLER MOVEMENT

Parents of children who do not attend school may be issued a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) by the local authority. The penalty is typically £60 but increases to £120 if paid after 21 days and before 28 days.

Each local authority should publish a 'Code of Conduct' for Fixed Penalty Notices. It is the school head teacher who decides whether to issue a Fixed Penalty Notice for unauthorised absences by making a referral to the local authority.

SECTION 444(1) EDUCATION ACT 1996

If the child is absent without authorisation, the parent is guilty of an offence, punishable by a fine of up to £1,000.

SECTION 444(1A) EDUCATION ACT

This is an aggravated offence. If the parent knew about the unauthorised absence and failed to act, they may be fined up to £2,500 or face up to 3 months in prison.

Parents can also be prosecuted under Section 103 Education and Inspections Act 2006 if their excluded child is found in a public place during school hours. This could result in a fine of up to £1,000.

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