



## Maximising our Potential

12<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

### Re: National Framework for Penalty Notices - School Absence

I am writing to inform you of changes the Government have implemented from 19th August 2024 concerning unauthorised absences from school.

Parents/Carers can already be issued with a penalty notice by the local authority for their child's non-attendance at school. From the 19th August 2024, the Government have standardised the process for penalty notices. All local authorities must follow the national requirements.

From the 19 August 2024:

- Penalty notices for unauthorised absence from school are increasing from £120 to £160 per child, per parent. The amount will be reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.
- A parent may be issued with a penalty notice if their child's absence is unauthorised, and they miss 10 sessions within a rolling period of 10 weeks. Ten sessions are usually the same as 5 school days. The 10 weeks may span different terms or school years. For example, two unauthorised absences in the summer term and eight unauthorised absences in the autumn term.
- The changes apply to any unauthorised absence taken from the start of the new academic year.
- If a second penalty notice is issued to the same parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period, the penalty notice will be charged at £160. There is no option for this second offence to be reduced to £80.
- The Government has set a national limit of two penalty notices that can be issued to a parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period.
- If the national limit of two penalty notices has been met, or exceeded, the local authority must consider the use of another tool to improve attendance. For example, prosecution or another attendance legal intervention.

The local penalty notice code of conduct will be published on Knowsley MBC Council's website and has been drawn up in consultation with headteachers and the Merseyside Police Force.

We believe good attendance is essential to maximise your child's potential and we thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Mrs A Dobson  
Headteacher

Resilience

Kindness

Respect

Aspiration

Confidence



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