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Attendance at Tudor Primary School and Legal Intervention- Fixed Penalty Notices

As highlighted over a sustained period of time, the school is concerned with the attendance rates of some children who are regarded as persistent absentees. Whilst the school continues to be praised by the Attendance Improvement Team at Hertfordshire, it has been decided that, following advice, that the school will introduce the potential use of Fixed Penalty Notices as of March 2018.

Research commissioned by the Department for Education shows missing school for even a day can mean a child is less likely to achieve good grades, which can have a damaging effect on their life chances.

At Tudor Primary School **our aim is to work with parents to ensure that all our pupils receive the most from their education and reach their full potential.** We are very proud of a number of strategies that we have put in place to support a number of families and we have been proven to be successful in raising the attendance of many children.

This information is to remind all parents/carers that the law that requires them to ensure that their child attends school regularly. The Government remains very clear that no child should miss school apart from in exceptional circumstances and schools must continue to take steps to reduce absence to support children's attainment.

Any pupil, who incurs 15 or more sessions of unauthorised absence within the current and/or previous term, could be at risk of a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued. Please note that with regards to holidays within term time, this can only be authorised for exceptional circumstances to which lower holiday costs or overlapping of term dates are not considered exceptional reasons.

If a Fixed Penalty Notice is issued it is a fine of £60 **per parent per child** which must be paid in one payment within 21 days. If a Notice is unpaid within 21 days, the fine will double to £120 per parent per child if paid within 28 days. If a fixed penalty notice fine is not paid in full within the timescale set out above, the Local Authority is required to start legal proceedings against the parent(s) in the local Magistrates' Court for the offence of failing to ensure their child has attended school regularly.

I hope we can count on your support in this matter.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Mr. Rob Weightman
Headteacher