

Dear Parents and Carers,

Unusually, this home news letter focuses on a single item- Attendance. This reflects the shift in focus of Government to pupil attendance at school. Since the Pandemic school attendance figures have fallen significantly. Schools will be expected to actively secure regular attendance, support families to achieve this goal and where necessary fine families. The following article is taken from the BBC News website following an interview with the Education Secretary yesterday:

Term-time holiday fines here to stay - Phillipson

Parents should not take their children on term-time holidays and have a responsibility to keep them in school, the new education secretary has told the BBC.

In her first interview in the role with BBC News, Bridget Phillipson said there "will have to be consequences" for parents who fail to do so.

She said punishments, like fines, are a "well-established practice" and are "here to stay".

It comes as some parents say weighing a fine against the much larger cost of a trip during the school holidays makes the decision a "no-brainer".

'Honour responsibilities'

Minimum fines, imposed by local authorities, for taking children out of class without permission for five school days will rise from £60 per child to £80 per child from August.

Head teachers have some say over which cases they refer to the council for potential fines.

Repeated failure to ensure school attendance can result in a court prosecution, a fine of up to £2,500, a community order and even a jail sentence of up to three months.

But some parents have told the BBC [they are saving thousands](#) by going away during term time rather than the school holidays.

Ms Phillipson said it was important that parents "honour our responsibilities".

"Children not being in school doesn't just have an impact on those individual children, it means that teachers often have to recover material because children have missed out," she said.

I have also provided an additional link for information. Attendance will be a major focus area for Ofsted, so school will have to demonstrate that it is actively following guidance. Fines will, from September, form part of this response.

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2024/02/29/fines-for-parents-for-taking-children-out-of-school-what-you-need-to-know/>

Yours faithfully,

Mr McCann
Head Teacher



Headteacher: Mr M. McCann