

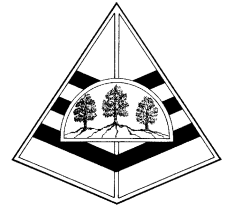
FERNDOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL

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What is a Penalty Notice?

Under existing legislation, parents/carers commit an offence if their child fails to attend school regularly, and the absences are classed as unauthorised. Such cases may result in a prosecution under Section 444 of the Education Act, 1996.

A Penalty Notice is an alternative to prosecution, which does not require an appearance in Court, whilst still seeking to secure an improvement in the pupil's attendance.

What are the costs?

If payment is made within 21 days of receipt of a Penalty Notice the amount is £60 per parent per pupil, rising to £120 per parent per pupil if paid after 21 days but before 28 days.

If the penalty notice is not paid the parent(s) may be prosecuted in the magistrate's court for failing to ensure their child is receiving regular education.

How are they issued?

By post to your home.

Is a Warning given?

You will receive a written warning of the possibility of a Penalty Notice being issued, which will tell you the extent of your child's absences and give you 15 school days to effect an improvement. There is no limit to the number of formal warnings which can be issued.

Parents may also receive a Penalty Notice without a warning letter for the offence of failing to secure regular school attendance under the following circumstances:

- Their child is stopped on a truancy sweep more than once
- They go on holiday in term time without school's permission
- The child fails to return to school following fixed term exclusion

