



Attendance Policy

*"We seek to develop the whole child
within a Christian Ethos,
preparing them for a happy, healthy and fulfilled life
ahead."*

Revised Spring 2014

Reviewed Summer 2016 putting in appendix re: Local Authority Code of Conduct

For Review Spring 2018

1. **MISSION STATEMENT:**

Partney CE Aided School is committed to providing a full and efficient education for all pupils. The school believes sincerely that all pupils benefit from the education it provides and therefore from regular school attendance. Absence from school for any reason can have a negative impact on a child's educational progress. To this end the School will do as much as it can to ensure that all pupils achieve maximum possible attendance and that any problems which may impede full attendance are acted upon as quickly as possible.

2. **AIMS:**

It is recognised that all pupils of statutory school age have an equal right to access an education in accordance with the National Curriculum regulations.

Foundation stage children below statutory school age are entitled to education in accordance with Curriculum Guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage.

- No pupils should be deprived of their opportunities by either their own non-attendance or that of other pupils from receiving an education that meets their needs and personal development.
- In the first instance, it is the responsibility of parents to ensure attendance at school as required by law.
- Many pupils and their parents may need to be supported and rewarded at some stage in meeting their attendance obligations and responsibilities.
- Situations may exist beyond the control of pupils and/or parents which schools need to address in partnership with external agencies.
- The vast majority of pupils want to attend school to learn, to socialise with their peer groups and prepare themselves fully to take their place in society as well-rounded and responsible citizens with the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to contribute to the life and culture of their communities.

The Law and Expectations

Under Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 the parent of every child of compulsory school age has a duty to ensure that the child receives efficient full time education suitable to the child's age, ability and any special educational needs he or she may have. This duty can be met by the child attending regularly at a school or alternative educational provision made by the LA or the school or by the parent providing other suitable educational provision.



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Where a parent fails to ensure the regular school attendance of their child at a school at which they are a registered pupil or other educational provision made for them then the parent may be guilty of an offence under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996.

Where a child has not attended regularly at school the LA have the options of issuing a fixed penalty notice in respect of the parents of the child, bringing proceedings before the family courts for an Education Supervision Order or prosecuting the parents under Section 444 before the Magistrates, Court.

Notice of a formal warning of a Fixed Penalty Notice will be given by the school if the absence is likely to *meet or exceed unauthorised absence of 15% or above over a six week period (15% criteria)*.

Non-school attendance includes any day when a child should be in attendance at school and they are absent without the authorisation of the school and includes unauthorised holidays during term time and persistent late arrival at school beyond the registration period. Fixed Penalty Notices can be issued for persistent lateness where the child arrives after the closure of registration and this is coded U in the register.

Parents and pupils can expect the following from school:

- Regular, efficient and accurate recording of attendance.
- Early contact with parents when a pupil fails to attend school without providing good reason.
- Immediate and confidential action on any problem notified to us. (Confidential means that the member of staff notified will not disclose that information to anybody without the consent of the student or their parent).
- We will take steps through rewards to encourage good attendance.
- A quality education.
- Notice of a formal warning, followed by issue of a Fixed Penalty Notice will be given if the absence meets *or exceed unauthorised absence of 15% or above over a six week period (15% criteria)*.

4. ENCOURAGING ATTENDANCE:

Attendance can be encouraged in the following ways:

- Accurate completion of the registers at the beginning of each session and within 30 minutes of the start of the session.
- Recording of good attendance on individual Records.
- Lincolnshire County Council's Certificates for 100% attendance achieved throughout the year are given out in July
- Identifying and supporting pupils who have attendance problems in advance of transfer



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between KS2 and KS3. Sharing relevant information with the destination school

- Establishing a mechanism for working with those parents who are concerned that their children may be experiencing difficulty in attending school
- Sending parents of children with problems in attendance reports and letters
- School phoning to see why a child is absent
- Expecting parents to request authorization of absence prior to time



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5. RESPONDING TO NON-ATTENDANCE:

- *Non-school attendance includes any day when a child should be in attendance at school and they are absent without the authorisation of the school and includes unauthorised holidays during term time and persistent late arrival at school beyond the registration period.*

When a pupil does not attend, the school needs to respond effectively.

- If a note or telephone call is not received from parents by 9.30 am, the parents will be contacted on the first day of absence by telephone.
- Where there is no response and continued absence, a letter will be sent enquiring about unexplained non-attendance, or there may be a visit from a member of the
- School or the Education Welfare Officer (EWO) if this is considered appropriate.
- In continued non-attendance, the case will be discussed with the Education Welfare Officer for the school and further action planned. This may in appropriate cases, result in a referral to the EWS.

- Notice of a formal warning of a Fixed Penalty Notice will be given if the absence is likely to *meet or exceed unauthorised absence of 15% or above over a six week period (15% criteria).*
- If there is no improvement, then the case will be discussed again with the Education Welfare Officer with a view to a formal referral being made to the Education Welfare Service, if one has not been made at an earlier stage. If a referral has already been made then the case will be reviewed and the meeting used to plan further action.

- 6. (New) Non-attendance: Holiday Absences
- It must be remembered that to count as non-attendance at school the absence must be unauthorised. **The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013** have removed the reference to holidays during term time and now provides that a leave of absence during term time will only be granted where an application is made in advance to the school and the school consider that the leave of absence should be granted due to exceptional circumstances relating to that application.
- What amounts to "exceptional circumstances" is a matter for the discretion of the Head Teacher and Governors and should be judged on a case by case basis but it is unlikely to amount to an exceptional circumstance if it is merely claimed that a holiday abroad can only be afforded in term time or that a parent is unable to take leave during school holidays (this is a matter between the parent and their employer). Head Teachers should also consider asking for evidence of the circumstances that has arisen where appropriate.

Responding to Non-attendance due to Holiday Absence

In the instance of Holiday absence an application to the Head teacher should be made verbally or in writing, in advance of the proposed holiday. Notice of a formal warning of a Fixed Penalty Notice will be given if the absence is likely to *meet or exceed unauthorised absence of 15% or above over a six week period (15% criteria).*



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Responding to persistent late arrival:

A code U (late mark) will be given in the registration for those children who arrive at school after registration has closed.(9.30am)

After 2 late marks in one half-term period, parents will be contacted by letter or phone to remind them of their responsibility for their child's attendance and invited to discuss strategies that can be put in place to rectify the situation.

If further lateness occurs after this letter a formal warning of FPN will be issued.

Point for discussion over number of late marks

Reintegration:

- The return to school for a pupil after long term absence requires special planning. For example, it may be appropriate to establish a Pastoral Support Programme as detailed in the DfEE Social Inclusion: Pupil Support Guidance.
- The appropriate staff will be responsible for deciding on the programme for return and the management of that programme.
- All staff need to be aware that this is a difficult process that will require careful handling and that any problems should be notified to the responsible staff member as soon as possible.
- Programmes may need to be tailored to individual needs and may involve phased, part-time re-entry with support in lessons as appropriate. Support from the SEN Co-ordinator may be required.

The success of the Pastoral Support will require the involvement of appropriate school staff, other agencies and parents. Programmes should be reviewed regularly and amended as necessary. Staff will be notified of the return of the long-term absentees.

6. SCHOOL ORGANISATION:

In order for any policy to be successful, every member of the staff must make attendance a high priority and convey to the pupils by their behaviour, the importance of the education being provided. This means ensuring that all staff arrive to lessons on time and well prepared.

In addition to these there may be specific responsibilities allocated to individual staff groups such as the following:

Headteacher:

- To oversee the whole policy.
- To report to governors.
- To oversee the operation of the attendance system and the collation of attendance data.
- To oversee the work of administrative staff.
- To produce the attendance profile for the whole school.
- To liaise with EWO.
- To collate attendance data.
- To initiate contact with parents in cases of prolonged unexplained absence.
- To organise returns of long term absentees in conjunction with the SEN co-ordinator.



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School Administrator

- To oversee the registration process and ensure that registers are completed accurately and on time.
- To publish on school website
- Produce updates from weekly registers
- Telephone parents on first day of absence if no explanation has been received
- Act under the head teachers instruction when enquiring re longer unexplained absences

Class Teacher

- To complete registers accurately and on time.
- To follow-up within 24 hours any unexplained non-attendance by contacting parents via the school administrator.
- To challenge suspicious or inappropriate reasons for absence
- To record all reasons for absence in the register.
- To inform Head Teacher of concerns.

Governors:

- Governor(s) may be given specific role/interest in monitoring attendance and/or policies.
- They may make a report to each Governors' Meeting if this is considered to be appropriate.
- Governors can play a valuable role through representation at school attendance panels if held, parent evenings etc.
- Request regular attendance progress reports for Governors meetings

Parents:

- Contact with school on first day of absence or as soon as possible.
- Provide signed and dated absence notes for all absences including appointment letters and doctors notes.
- Absence notes if authorised absence is longer than initially anticipated.
- Support their child and the school in achieving maximum attendance.

Education Welfare Service:

We work closely with this service and they have been described as the attendance enforcement arm of most local authorities which complements the role of the school.

Lincolnshire EW Service will strive to provide a service that recognises the uniqueness of the school and the community it serves.

They support the school in a variety of ways:

- Liaise with Head and SEN and school staff
- Where a referral is accepted, they will undertake home visits, either pre-arranged or without notice as considered necessary.
- Through group work with identified groups of pupils.
- Where necessary they will instigate legal proceedings on behalf of the LEA including parental prosecutions in the Magistrates' Court and applying for Education Supervision Orders through the Family Court.
- They will accept referrals that meet referral criteria, initiate contact with parents or carers and undertake assessments.
- They will plan and review casework.



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- They will provide feedback to schools.
- They can offer strategic/policy advice and support in relation to matters of attendance, the employment of young people and young people involved in performing.
- They will support schools in the establishment and management of school attendance panels.
- They will support schools in the use of penalty notices and parenting contracts within the provisions of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003

7. **Liaising with the Inclusion and Attendance Team (2014)**

- The Inclusion and Attendance Team are responsible for the delivery of Fixed Penalty Notices and these notices will only be issued within the Fixed Penalty Notices Code of Conduct January 2014 (see Appendix.)

Good relations and working practices are essential. Agencies have difficult roles in that they endeavour to support both the school, in meeting its legal obligations, as well as home and pupil, in ensuring that the latter's educational opportunities are maximised to the full. Some parents need the support of these agencies so that they can fulfil their legal obligations to their children.

Other Agencies are to be used where appropriate in individual cases.

Research has shown that schools in partnership with the following support services have a greater impact on school attendance than when they act alone or when the support services are uncoordinated or disjointed.

- Educational Behavioural and Support Services.
- Educational Psychologists.
- Special Educational Needs Service.
- Social Services.
- Careers and Guidance Service.
- CAMHS
- Youth Service.



Appendix 1

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Fixed Penalty Notices

Code of Conduct

January 2014



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1. Introduction

- This code of conduct is issued by the Local Authority (LA) in accordance with the requirement of regulation 14 of The Education (Penalty Notice) (England) Regulations 2007 following consultation with the police and schools in Lincolnshire as required by the Regulations.
- The purpose of the code is to ensure a consistency in approach to the issuing of fixed penalty notices throughout Lincolnshire and to provide a clear, consistent and transparent approach to the use of the fixed penalty system for ALL school types, the police and parents in Lincolnshire.
- Regular and punctual attendance at school or any alternative provision is essential for children to realise their educational potential and a legal requirement for all children of compulsory school age.
- Schools have a multitude of tools available to ensure regular school attendance and such strategies will be sufficient for the majority of families where attendance is an issue. However, fixed penalty notices are an option where other strategies have been unsuccessful and should not be used as a first resort.

The Regulations allow the LA, schools and police (or PCSOs with delegated authority) to issue fixed penalty notices. This code is drafted with reference to the process that the LA and Police will adopt, if schools wish to issue fixed penalty notices themselves, rather than allow the LA to do so, they must comply with the principles established in this code.

Schools that intend to issue their own notices should provide the LA with a named contact in order to ensure that provision can be made to establish that any notices issued have been done in a fair, consistent and lawful manner.

Schools should remember that if they elect to issue notices, payment will still be to the LA.

2. The Law



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School Attendance: Under Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 the parent of every child of compulsory school age has a duty to ensure that the child receives efficient full time education suitable to the child's age, ability and any special educational needs he or she may have. This duty can be met by the child attending regularly at a school or alternative educational provision made by the LA or the school or by the parent providing other suitable educational provision.

Where a parent fails to ensure the regular school attendance of their child at a school at which they are a registered pupil or other educational provision made for them then the parent may be guilty of an offence under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996.

Where a child has not attended regularly at school the LA have the options of issuing a fixed penalty notice in respect of the parents of the child, bringing proceedings before the family courts for an Education Supervision Order or prosecuting the parents under Section 444 before the Magistrates, Court.

Non-school attendance includes any day when a child should be in attendance at school and they are absent without the authorisation of the school and includes unauthorised holidays during term time and persistent late arrival at school beyond the registration period. Fixed Penalty Notices can be issued for persistent lateness where the child arrives after the closure of registration and this is coded U in the register.

Excluded Pupils: Section 103 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 makes it a duty for parents in relation to pupils subject to a fixed period or permanent exclusion to ensure that their child is not present in a public place during school hours, without reasonable justification, during the first five days of any such exclusion. If a child is present in a public place during the first five days of an exclusion during school hours the parent may be guilty of an offence for which they can be prosecuted by the LA before a magistrates' court. Alternatively the matter can be dealt with by the school through issuing of a fixed penalty notice.

NOTE: To proceed with a fixed penalty notice and/or prosecution under section 103 of the Education and Inspection Act 2006 the Head Teacher of the school must have issued formal warning letter to the parent(s) under Section 104 of the Act informing the parent of their liability and setting out the dates on which this liability arises (this should be included in the standard exclusions letter). This can be included in the letter sent to the parent providing other information about the exclusion and can be served by first class post but where the opportunity arises to hand it to the parent(s) this is the preferred method.

Where an excluded pupil is of compulsory school age the Head Teacher must also notify parents without delay, and by the end of the afternoon session. For the purpose of the warning letter above, the letter should include

"that for the first five school days of an exclusion (or until the start date of any alternative provision where this is earlier) parents are legally required to ensure that



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their child is not present in a public place during school hours without reasonable justification, and that parents may be given a fixed penalty notice or prosecuted if they fail to do so. This will therefore apply to you from (*Insert first date of exclusion*) to the end of the school day on (*insert fifth date of exclusion*).

Fixed Penalty Notices: The Education (Penalty Notices) (England) Regulations 2007 as amended set out the framework for the operation of the penalty notice scheme.

Parent: For the purposes of education law and this code of conduct a "parent" means all natural parents whether they are married or not; and includes any person having parental responsibility for a child (a person under 18 years of age) who, although not the child's natural parent, has care of that child. Having care of a child means an adult with whom the child lives and who looks after the child on a day to day basis. Any reference to a "parent" in this code of conduct is a reference to anyone having care of a child as set out above.

3. Use of Fixed Penalty Notices

- The Inclusion and Attendance Team are responsible for the delivery of this function and penalty notices will only be issued within this Code of Conduct.
- Fixed penalties are one of the tools available to the LA in tackling poor school attendance and anti-social behaviour issues and where thought appropriate alternative approaches such as Education Supervision Orders and prosecution may be utilised at the discretion of the LA.
- Use of fixed penalty notices will be restricted to two per child per academic year. In situations where a parent meets the criteria for more than one penalty notice to be issued, because there is more than one child with irregular school attendance multiple issue may occur. Where a child resides with two parents a separate penalty notice will be issued to each parent.
- Parents must always be forewarned of the possible issue of a Fixed Penalty Notice by the school through a Fixed Penalty Notice Formal Warning letter. A Formal Warning letter can also be issued by the school in cases where a fixed penalty may not be suitable. An example of this might be when parents request a period of absence that does not meet the 15% absence criteria but it is still a period of unauthorised absence. The purpose of this would be to show a level of consistent practice in



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relation to application for absence during term time. Examples of Formal Warning letters can be found in Appendix 1.

- There is no restriction on the number of times a parent may receive a Formal Warning letter of the possible issue of a Fixed Penalty Notice.
- If a penalty notice is issued whether paid or not it may be used in evidence in subsequent criminal proceedings in relation to either non-school attendance or being in a public place during school hours whilst excluded from school. This includes regular patterns of term time absence such as unauthorised annual holidays.

4. Where a Penalty Notice may be Issued

Fixed term penalties will only be issued in circumstance where the LA is satisfied that the criteria for prosecution would be met if the option of a fixed penalty notice is not taken up by the parent. The circumstances in which a notice may be issued are:

- Where a child is absent from school due to unauthorised absence of 15% or above over a six week period. This will include lateness after the close of registration when code U is used.
- Where a child is present in a public place during school hours without reasonable justification during the first five days of any exclusion.

Non-Attendance: It must be remembered that to count as non-attendance at school the absence must be unauthorised. **The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013** have removed the reference to holidays during term time and now provides that a leave of absence during term time will only be granted where an application is made in advance to the school and the school consider that the leave of absence should be granted due to exceptional circumstances relating to that application.

What amounts to "exceptional circumstances" is a matter for the discretion of the Head Teacher and should be judged on a case by case basis but it is unlikely to amount to an exceptional circumstance if it is merely claimed that a holiday abroad can only be afforded in term time or that a parent is unable to take leave during school holidays (this is a matter between the parent and their employer). Head Teachers should also consider asking for evidence of the circumstances that has arisen where appropriate.



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Action by the Police – Before issuing a penalty notice yourself or approaching the LA to issue the same it is important to ensure that evidence is available to support the fixed term notice and this will often require the school and the police sharing information and working together.

Where a pupil is found in a public place when they should be in school or during a period of exclusion, enquires should be made to ensure in terms of a fixed penalty notice for failure to attend regularly at school under section 444(A) EA 1996 that:

- The pupil's absence on the day they are found in public by the police taken with other absences over a six week period gives an unauthorised absence rate of 15% or above.
- The school do not already have in place actions aimed at addressing the non-school attendance of the pupil where the issue of a fixed penalty notice would be counterproductive or inappropriate, for example if the matter is already being referred to the LA for prosecution.

In respect of a child who is in a public place during a period of exclusion it will need to be verified with the school that the child was found in a public place during school hours in the first five days of that exclusion and that the appropriate formal warning letter was served on the parents at the time the exclusion was imposed.

Consideration should also be given to calling at the pupil's home address to ascertain whether a parent is at home in a supervisory capacity and to make them aware that the child has been found in public when either the child should have been in school or during the first five days of an exclusion.

5. Procedure for Issuing Penalty Notices

Penalty Notices will only be issued within the terms of the Code of Conduct. The Inclusion and Attendance Team of the LA are responsible for the administration and issue of penalty notices in Lincolnshire. The LA will ensure that penalty notices are properly issued and will only issue them for offences where the LA is satisfied that the matter meets the threshold for a prosecution.

Requests for fixed penalty notices can be found on Lincolnshire County Council's website, <http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/parents/schools/welfare>, by entering Fixed Penalty Notices into the search tool. Once the application is completed it should be emailed with the correct supporting information to fpn@lincolnshire.gov.uk. The Inclusion & Attendance Team will acknowledge receipt of the school's application and notify the school once the period of 21 and 28 days has passed advising whether or not the fine has been paid. Requests for the issue of fixed penalty notices will be accepted from schools in Lincolnshire and the Lincolnshire Police and from within the LA and must be in writing and include:

- The name and address of all the parent(s)



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- The name and address of the child concerned and their date of birth
- Details of the offence in terms of documentary evidence including, where the matter relates to an unauthorised absence from school, a signed copy (by Head Teacher or those with delegated authority within the school) of a pupil absence record (PAR) form showing the period of unauthorised absence.
- Confirmation of the date/dates over which the offence was committed.

Applications should be made as soon after the date(s) of the alleged offence as possible. Late submission of a request for a fixed penalty notice may result in the application being rejected if the time that has elapsed since the alleged offence is such that court proceedings would no longer be viable (due to the six month time limit on issuing legal proceedings) if the option of a fixed penalty notice is not taken up by the parent.

The Court expects action to be taken without undue delay in order to address non-attendance issues. Any unreasonable delay could result in a prosecution case being weakened and, more importantly, the education opportunities for the child being missed.

On receipt of an application for a fixed penalty notice to be issued the LA will make an assessment of whether the application is a proper matter upon which a fixed penalty notice should be issued and meets the criteria provided for either a formal warning of a fixed penalty notice and communicate its decision in writing to the applicant.

Where an application for a formal warning or fixed penalty notice is accepted the LA will issue the warning or notice in writing to the parent(s) concerned and where there is more than one parent a separate written notification will be sent to each parent for each child that the notice relates to. The notice will be sent to the parent by first class post and copies sent to the school.

6. Effect of Penalty Notice being issued

- The penalty notice is presumed to be served on the parent to whom it is sent on the second working day after it was posted.
- If a parent pays the penalty notice within 21 days from the date it is served the sum due from the parent to discharge the penalty notice is £60.00
- The parent can still pay the notice after 21 days but the payment increases to £120 and this must be paid before 28 days have passed from the date of service.



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- If a parent pays the amount due within the times set out above then no further action will be taken against that parent for the offence on the date(s) set out in the penalty notice.
- Once a penalty notice has been issued no prosecution for the non- attendance detailed in the penalty notice can be brought against the parent until the payment period of 28 days has passed and the fixed penalty has not been paid.
- All payments must be made to the LA.

7. Appeal against the Penalty Notice

There is no right of appeal against a penalty notice and a parent can either accept and pay the fine or decline payment subject to them being aware that further action as set out below may be taken by the LA if the penalty notice remains unpaid.

The LA has the discretion to withdraw the notice if the LA is satisfied that:

- The fixed penalty notice has been sent to the wrong person
- It contains a material error (in these circumstances a fresh amended penalty notice could still be issued).
- If for any other reason the LA are of the opinion that it should not have been issued.

8. Non Payment of the Penalty Notice

- Non-payment of a fixed term penalty notice is not in itself an offence. The fixed penalty notice is issued as an alternative to bringing a prosecution in the magistrates' court for the offence set out in the formal warning letter. However, if the offer of dealing with the offence as a fixed penalty matter is not taken up by payment of the sum due within the 28 day period then consideration will be given to issuing criminal proceedings against the parent in the magistrates' court for the non- attendance of their child.
- If a fixed penalty notice has not been paid after 28 days from the day it is taken to be served then the LA will contact the school or police officer who made the application for the penalty notice to be issued and discuss with them the available evidence to bring proceedings in the magistrates' court for the alleged offence under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996 or Section 103 of the Education and Inspection Act 2006.



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- If it is the view of the LA that prosecution is a viable option then a request will be made that the school or police officer concerned submits a report to the Local Authority's Legal Panel for a formal decision to be taken as to whether to proceed with the matter by issuing criminal proceedings before the magistrates' court.
- Prosecution of offences is a matter within the discretion of the local authority and a decision will be taken in line with the LA prosecution policy for these matters and proceedings, where commenced, will be issued by the LA.
- If a prosecution is brought and the parent is found guilty or pleads guilty then a conviction for an offence under Section 444(1) of the Education Act 1996 or for an offence under Section 103 of the Education and inspection Act 2006 both carry a fine of up to a maximum of £1000 and in addition the LA will seek to recover costs in respect of bringing the proceedings. Further, a successful prosecution will result in a parent having a criminal record which could be disclosed should they apply for a position where a DBS check (formally known as a CRB Criminal Records Bureau Check) is required.

9. Administration of Fixed Penalty Notices.

All administrative functions in respect of the issue of fixed penalty notices and the collection of payments for the same will be undertaken by the LA unless schools/academies choose to issue their own, although non-payment of fines will still be monitored by the LA.

The LA will keep central records in respect of the issue of such notices within Lincolnshire which must include:

- A copy of each notice issued,
- A record of all payments made and the date of payment,
- Whether the notice was withdrawn and on what grounds,
- Whether the parent(s) following non-payment of the same, was subsequently prosecuted for the offence set out in the notice or for an offence arising out of the same circumstances



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Appendix 2

SAMPLE LETTER: For persistent absence/lateness

Dear

FIXED PENALTY FORMAL WARNING

NAME OF CHILD/YOUNG PERSON:
DATE OF BIRTH:
PUPIL REGISTERED AT:

This letter is a **Fixed Penalty Formal Warning** and is being sent to you because your child has an unacceptable level of unauthorised absence.

During the period (date) to (date) , (child's name) was absent/lateness on (number of) sessions out of (number) possible half-day sessions of which (number) were unauthorised * and (in addition she/he was late on (number) occasions.) *delete as appropriate

(child's name) 's attendance will be reviewed from the date of this warning, with the expectation that his/her attendance increases to 100%. Failure to comply may result in a Fixed Penalty being issued.

In order for us to consider any absence due to medical conditions, you should consider obtaining a Med 3 note from your GP each time (child's name) absent and forward this to the school.

Requesting the Local Authority to issue a Fixed Penalty Notice is a strategy used by schools to address the unacceptable levels of attendance of children attending their school under the following legal framework:

- **Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 places upon parents a duty to ensure that their child receives efficient full-time education either by regular attendance at school or otherwise**



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- **Where a child is a registered pupil at a school and the parent fails to ensure that child's regular attendance at school the parent is liable to be prosecuted for a criminal offence under Section 444 of the Education Act**
- **In cases where this duty is not being fulfilled Section 444B of the same Act empowers the Local Authority to issue a Fixed Penalty of either £60.00 or £120.00.**

Should you wish to discuss this matter further or to access appropriate support, please contact the school on the above contact details.

Yours sincerely



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SAMPLE LETTER 2: For holidays during term time

Dear

FIXED PENALTY FORMAL WARNING

NAME OF CHILD/YOUNG PERSON:

DATE OF BIRTH:

PUPIL REGISTERED AT:

This letter is a **Fixed Penalty Formal Warning** and is being sent to you because you have requested a period of absence from school for your child during term time.

The period you have requested from (date) to (date), is not deemed to be exceptional circumstances and therefore will be coded as unauthorised absence. If you choose to ignore this warning, a Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued for the above period of absence.

A Fixed Penalty Notice is a strategy used by schools to address the unacceptable levels of attendance of children attending their school under the following legal framework:

- **Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 places upon parents a duty to ensure that their child receives efficient full-time education either by regular attendance at school or otherwise**
- **Where a child is a registered pupil at a school and the parent fails to ensure that child's regular attendance at school the parent is liable to be prosecuted for a criminal offence under Section 444 of the Education Act**
- **In cases where this duty is not being fulfilled Section 444B of the same Act empowers the Local Authority to issue a Fixed Penalty of either £60.00 or £120.00.**

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact the school on the above contact details.

Yours sincerely