



Atherton Sacred Heart RC Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

In accordance with a directive issued by the Local Authority, I am writing to inform all parents that under the Education Act 1996, parents and carers have a duty to make sure their children regularly attend school. If parents or carers fail to do this, they can be prosecuted.

Working within a Code of Conduct the Local Authority can issue a penalty notice to parents or carers if a child has missed a number of sessions without permission from school.

If your child falls within one or more of the following categories within a 12-week period: -

- 10 sessions morning or afternoon (5 days) of unauthorised absence with under 90% attendance
- 20 sessions morning or afternoon (10 days) of unauthorised absence
- Persistently arriving late for school after the close of registration.

You could receive a Penalty Notice of £60 which will increase to £120 if not paid within 21 days. The Penalty Notice will need to be paid in full before 28 days of the notice being served. Failure to pay a penalty notice may result in prosecution (a separate penalty notice may be issued to each parent for each child).

In law, an offence is committed if a parent fails to secure a child's regular attendance at school. Wigan Council Attendance Service, in conjunction with schools, will use these powers as an early deterrent to prevent patterns of unauthorised absence developing. In some circumstances school may ask you to provide evidence in respect of sickness absence e.g. letters from a doctor, copies of prescriptions or medical appointment confirmations.

You may also receive a Penalty Notice for the offence of failing to secure regular school attendance if your child is stopped on a truancy sweep or you fail to ensure that your child is not in a public place during the first 5 days of a fixed term permanent exclusion.

The Local Authority and schools are committed to providing the best possible future for your child. If you have concerns about your child's attendance at school or if you are experiencing any difficulties, please contact school and ask for support.

Yours sincerely,

J. M. Dermott

Mr I. M^cDermott
Head Teacher