

Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN)

Unauthorised Absence* & Holidays in term time

From February 2005 the Government gave powers to the LA to issue FPN through the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003.



Information for Parents School Attendance

The Government and LA therefore strongly urge parents and carers to avoid taking their children out of school for family holidays as this will disrupt their education and progress

Holidays are not a right and must be applied for on a leave of absence form available from the school well in advance of the holiday dates

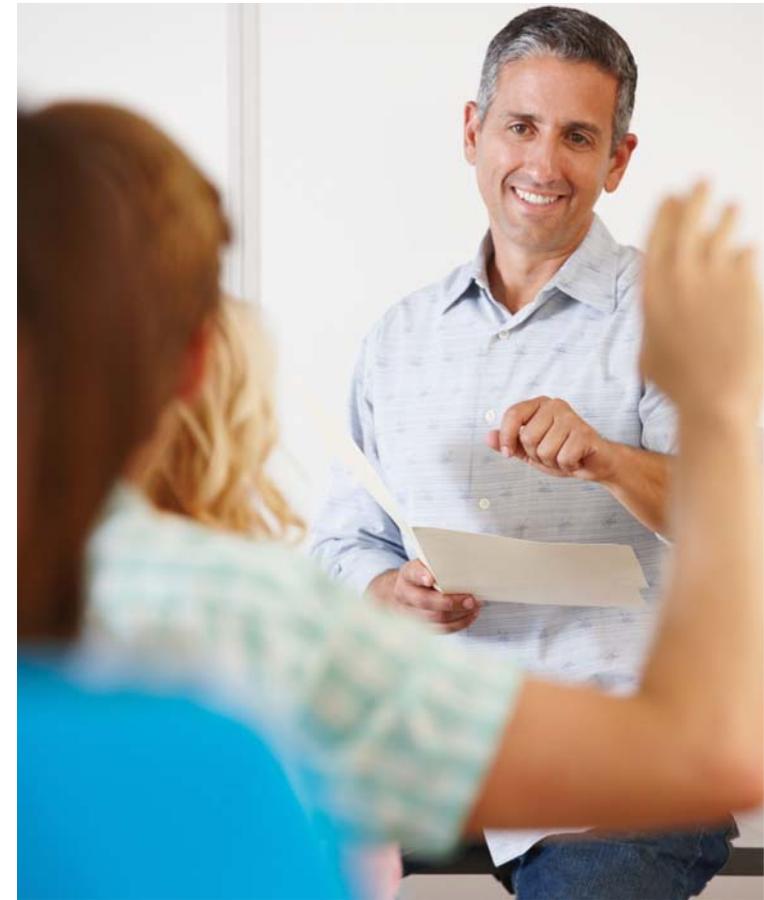
The following circumstances for each individual request will be taken into account by the head teacher:

- the reason for request
- parent/carers workplace arrangements supported by employer's letter
- pupil attendance
- previous holiday in the same academic year
- impact on pupil progress
- SAT /exam times

The Role of the Local Authority

- Local Authorities (LA) are responsible by law for ensuring registered pupils of compulsory school age attend their school regularly.
- Barnsley MBC employ Education Welfare Officers to monitor school attendance and help parents and carers meet their responsibilities.
- Education Welfare Officers work closely with secondary and primary school and are based in their locality.
- If your child is not attending school regularly an Education Welfare Officer may visit you.

If there are particular reasons for your child's non attendance please discuss this with the school or the Education Welfare Officer.
- In cases of poor school attendance the LA can prosecute parents. This could result in a fine, a parenting order or a custodial sentence.



A holiday that has not been authorised by the school may result in the parents/carers receiving in a FPN after the holiday has been taken

**Absence without a valid reason may result in a FPN being issued.*



BARNSELY
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E d u c a t i o n W e l f a r e



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Introduction

If you are a parent of (or responsible for) a child aged between 5 and 16 who is registered at a school, this leaflet explains your responsibilities for making sure he or she attends school regularly.

The Law

By law, all children of compulsory school age (between 5 and 16) should receive a suitable full-time education. Parents/carers have a duty to ensure their child receives sufficient full-time education appropriate to their needs. You can register the child at a school or make other arrangements to provide an effective full-time education. If your child does not go the school at which he or she is registered, the Local Authority may take legal action against you. You must also ensure that your child attends school regularly and on time.



Why must my child go to school regularly?

- Having a good education will help to give your child the best possible start in life.
- If your child does not attend school regularly, he or she will not be able to keep up with school work.
- Employers will want to be sure that the people they recruit are reliable. So children who have a poor school attendance and punctuality record have less chance of gaining employment, further education or training.
- Children and Young people who are absent from school without good reason are more likely to be at risk of harm or abuse, they may also be drawn in to anti-social behaviour.
- There is a single-school leaving date for all children who have reached the age of 16 during the school year. This is the last Friday in June.

What can Parents/Carers do to help?

- Ensure your child attends school regularly and on time.
- Ensure good habits and routines are in place.
- Ensure regular attendance from Nursery school onwards.



- Talk to your child about their school day.
- Give your child the best chance of achieving their full potential.
- Contact school immediately if they are unable to attend.
- Always inform the school what the reason is for their absence.