



Athersley South Primary School

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13th June 2024

Dear Parents & Carers,

As you may be aware, the Government have introduced new school attendance guidelines to take effect from September 2024.

Included in these changes is the introduction of a National Framework for Penalty Notices for school absence. Attached is a poster from Barnsley MBC that explains what these changes are and what they mean for families.

Further information can also be found at; <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/unqj3veu/national-framework-2024-5-minute-guide.pdf>

Our attendance policy is currently being updated to reflect these new changes and will be available on our website ready for return to school in September.

Penalty notices for unauthorised holidays will continue to be issued as they have been previously, but will reflect the charges at first, second and third offence as outlined in the new framework.

Please be assured that, as always, our focus is on supporting families. We understand that there can be barriers to attendance and we encourage you to talk to us about these so that we can look at what can be done to help. In cases of unauthorised absence, our first action will be to offer support and penalty notices will only be issued where families have not engaged with this support or where attendance has not improved.

Further information about the expectations for schools in managing attendance can be found in the DFE Working together to improve school attendance statutory guidance; https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65f1b048133c22b8eecd38f7/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance_applies_from_19_August_2024_.pdf

Yours sincerely

Mrs Sanderson