



# Wickham Common

## Primary School

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Headteacher: Miss R Williams BA (Hons), NPQH

6<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Changes to the Issuance of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) to address Poor School Attendance**

The Department for Education (DfE) has recently issued the new National Framework that will come into force on **19 August 2024** regarding the criteria and issue of Penalty Notices (fines) to address poor school attendance.

If you are already a parent/carer here at Wickham Common Primary School, you will be aware that there are very few circumstances in relation to which a child will have an authorised absence from school. Full details can be found in our Attendance Policy on our website.

Whilst the school and local authority will always try and provide support to help a family with their child's attendance at school, if such support proves ineffective or an absence (of 5 or more consecutive school days) is taken for a holiday during term time, parents/carers will likely face a fine.

So that everyone is aware of these changes before we are fully into the new academic year, we take this opportunity to outline the salient changes below:

The first fine for school absences across the country will rise to **£80 per parent per child** if paid within 21 days, or £160 if paid within 28 days.

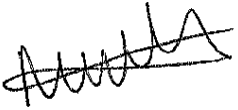
If a parent/carer receives a **second fine** for the same child/children **within any three-year period (regardless of the school setting during that time)**, this will be charged at the higher rate of **£160 per parent**.

**Fines per parent/carer will be capped at two fines within a three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, the matter will be presented to the Magistrate's Court by the Local Authority**, for action such as issue of a parenting order or prosecution. If you are prosecuted and attend court, you could face a fine of up to £2,500.

Further information can be found via at the DfE website, [The Education Hub](#).

If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Yours sincerely,



Miss Rebecca Williams  
Headteacher



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