

## **Holidays during term time and Penalty Notices**

If your child has 10 or more sessions\* of G coded absence (unauthorised holiday) in a 10 week period you will be issued with a Penalty Notice from Gloucestershire Local Authority – a Penalty Notice is a fine of £60, which rises to £120 if you don't pay within 21 days. If you do not pay the fine after 28 days, you may be prosecuted for your child's absence from school.

\*Each school day has 2 sessions, 5 days of absence would equal 10 sessions of absence.

## **Changes to the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006**

Amendments have been made to the 2006 regulations in the [Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013](#). These amendments, as described below, came into force on 1 September 2013.

### **Term-time holiday**

The [Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#) currently allow head teachers to grant leave of absence for the purpose of a family holiday during term time in “special circumstances” of up to ten school days leave per year. Head teachers can also grant extended leave for more than ten school days in exceptional circumstances.

Amendments to the 2006 regulations remove references to family holiday and extended leave as well as the statutory threshold of ten school days. The amendments make clear that head teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Head teachers should determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if the leave is granted.

### **The Education (Penalty Notices) (England) Regulations 2007**

Amendments have been made to the 2007 Regulations in the [Education \(Penalty Notices\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013](#). These amendments, as described below, will come into force on 1 September 2013.

The 2007 regulations set out the procedures for issuing penalty notices (fines) to each parent who fails to ensure their children's regular attendance at school or fails to ensure that their excluded child is not in a public place during the first five days of exclusion. Parents must pay £60 if they pay within 28 days; or £120 if they pay within 42 days.

Amendments to 2007 regulations will reduce the timescales for paying a penalty notice. Parents must, from 1 September 2013, pay £60 within 21 days or £120 within 28 days. This brings attendance penalty notices into line with other types of penalty notices and allows local authorities to act faster on prosecutions.

**If you have any concerns regarding this issue please do not hesitate to contact Debbie Gardner, Education Welfare Officer on 01453 842227.**