



**Learning Together for Life**

**Executive Head Teacher:** Andrew Smith B.Ed (Hons), M.Sc, NPQH  
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## **Market Rasen Church of England Primary School (VC)**

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Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Dear Parents / Carers

### **Attendance Update**

We are writing to you regarding updated guidance from the DfE focused around improving school attendance and issuing penalty notices for unauthorised absences. As you are aware, there is a lot of pressure on schools to improve their children's attendance and the DfE will have access to our attendance records from September

The guidance has changed around the issuing of penalty notices for absences during school time. The updated guidance comes into effect from the 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024 so will apply to all absences from the first day of term in September. Many of the changes will be made through the Government and Local Authority and we will follow their guidance as it is updated.

#### **The updated guidance states:**

Penalty notices can be issued by the Local Authority for poor attendance and term time holidays. This applies to five days unauthorised absence in a 10-week period.

- The first penalty notice issued to a parent in respect of a particular pupil will be charged at £160 if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.
- If a second penalty notice issued to the same parent in respect of the same pupil within a three-year period, it will be charged at a flat rate of £160 if paid within 28 days.
- A maximum of two penalty notices will be issued per parent, per child, within a three-year rolling period. In a case where the national threshold is met for a third time (or subsequent times) within those 3 years, alternative action should be taken instead. This will often include considering prosecution via the Magistrate's Court.

**Given this new guidance we would once again encourage good school attendance and not take family holidays in term time.**

As you know, we work very closely with yourselves to ensure your child's attendance is as high as possible throughout the year and we are happy to support with any attendance concerns you have.

If there is anything you would like to discuss further, please contact me at school:

[nichola.allerston@marketrasen.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:nichola.allerston@marketrasen.lincs.sch.uk)

Kind regards

Nichola Allerston

Head of School / Attendance Champion

**Our Christian Values: Caring Honesty Commitment to Achieve Fairness Co-operation Respect**

