

# The Devonshire Hill Nursery and Primary School

Weir Hall Road, Tottenham, London N17 8LB

T: 020 8808 2053 F: 020 8885 8786

admin@devonshirehill.haringey.sch.uk

Headteacher: Julie D'Abreu



Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019

## HARINGEY COUNCIL FIXED PENALTY NOTICE ADVICE TO PARENTS

Dear Parent/Carer

This year's school data reflects that this was our best ever year for attendance. During week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019 a staggering 98.23% of our children were in school. The school Governors and I appreciate that our excellent attendance figure is due to our supportive parents/carers who bring their children to school every day and the work of our Attendance Officer, Mr Ferdaus, in monitoring absence.

Unfortunately there are many parents/carers who still take their child out of school without authorisation during term time and Haringey Council have now issued the guidance below for parents - please take some time to read it as it applies to all parents/carers.

"There is a very clear and demonstrable link between good attendance at school and good educational outcomes. Also, when a child is absent or late to school, this causes disruption to the rest of the class and causes your child to fall behind. In order to ensure that our pupils attend school every day, I am writing to you to let you know that Haringey Council, are working in partnership with this school who will be issuing Fixed Penalty Notices to parents whose children are absent from school for unauthorised reasons.

It is a parent's responsibility to ensure that their children receive a full time education. This is stated in Section 7 of the 1996 Education Act:

*"The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him to receive efficient full-time education suitable to his age, ability and aptitude, and to any special educational needs he may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise".*

Regular attendance has been defined in law as meaning that a child must attend school every day. Unless your child cannot attend school due to an unavoidable cause or is too unwell to come to school, we expect your child to attend school every day, on time, on days when the school is open.

Cont/d...



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Schools can only authorise a pupil's absence in exceptional circumstances, and being absent from school due to a family holiday will not be considered as an exceptional circumstance. We understand that family circumstances differ however, and we will consider every request for leave when the school is open on an individual basis. Please put your request in writing and address it to the Headteacher for consideration. Further details are available from the school office.

All Headteachers must follow Department for Education guidance in relation to taking leave when schools are open, but it is the headteacher's decision whether to accept any parental explanation for absence, and to mark an absence as authorised or unauthorised in registers. Please be aware that pupils arriving to school after the official close of registers will be marked as being 'unauthorised absent' unless there are legitimate reasons for your child's late arrival.

Should your child be absent for unauthorised reasons, you may be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice by Haringey Council. This is a penalty of £120, payable for each of your children that have been absent from school for unauthorised reasons. **The penalty is payable by each parent.** This means that both you and your partner will have to pay the penalty. If the penalty notice is paid within 21 days, there is a 50% discount, so the amount payable is £60 per penalty notice. Late or part payments are not accepted."

Please ensure you follow the advice above to ensure your child does not miss valuable learning time and to avoid a penalty.

Thank you in advance for supporting this school as we work hard to maintain excellent school attendance.

Yours sincerely

Julie D'Abreu  
Headteacher

cc. Mr Ferdous, School Attendance Officer

