

July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Stopsley High School, we believe that regular school attendance is essential to your child's academic success and personal development. A good education is a key building block for future opportunities, and it starts with consistent attendance. At Stopsley High School we encourage students to be ambitious which is why we set our expectation for students to maintain attendance of 97% and above which will ensure they meet the attendance element for Top Class Student Status.

This attendance rationale aligns with the government statutory guidance "**Working Together to Improve school attendance**" which will come into effect from **19th August 2024** which incorporates support from the new Local Authority Attendance Support Officer to ensure a collaborative approach to promoting regular attendance.

The Local Authority Attendance Support Officer works collaboratively with our school to address persistent absenteeism and support families in improving attendance. This support may include:

- Home visit support with the school's Attendance Officer or Year manager
- Community Collaboration: Engaging with local services and agencies to address underlying issues affecting attendance.
- Supporting Students and Families
- Legal enforcement and case work

We will initiate a series of interventions, including communication with parents, meetings with the school's pastoral team, and, if necessary, involvement of the Local Authority Attendance Support Officer.

We are fortunate that we have such a wonderful, supportive parent and carer community at Stopsley High School who place the same value and importance on excellent school attendance. However, if your child's attendance becomes a concern it is important to note the following changes from "**Working Together to Improve school attendance**" which the Local Authority has requested we share with you:

Per Parent/Per Child Penalty Notice

Penalty Notices for absences will be issued **per child, per parent**. This means that if multiple siblings are absent during term time and the absences are unauthorised by the school each parent will receive a separate fine for each child's absence. Penalty Notices will be issued by the local authority, and the payment will be made directly to them. This is dealt with by the local authority's **Attendance Support Team** (previously known as Education Welfare Service).

10 Sessions (5 days) of Unauthorised Absence in a 10-week period

Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there have been 10 sessions (which is the same as 5 days) of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period

First Offence Penalties

The first penalty notice issued to each parent in respect of a particular child will be charged at: **£160.00** if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.

Second Offence (within 3 years)

A second penalty notice issued to the same parent in respect of the same pupil is charged at: A flat rate of **£160.00** if paid within 28 days.

Third Offence and any further offences (within 3 years)

A third penalty notice cannot be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within 3 years of the date of issue of the first. In a case where the national threshold is met for a third time (or subsequent times) within those 3 years, alternative action will be taken instead. This will often include considering **prosecution** but may include other tools such as one of the other attendance legal interventions.

Thank you for your ongoing support this year and in anticipation of your continued support in the new academic year.

Yours sincerely,



Karen Hand
Headteacher