



# New Haw Community School

## The Avenue, New Haw, Surrey, KT15 3RL



Tel: 01932 336571

email [office@new-haw.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:office@new-haw.surrey.sch.uk) [www.new-haw.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.new-haw.surrey.sch.uk)



4<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear parents and carers

### Important update on Attendance – Changes to Education-related Penalty Notices Information for Parents

As you know good attendance at school for all pupils is critical for successful pupil achievement .

You may be aware that the Department for Education has recently announced national changes to penalty notices issued for unauthorised absence in term time. These changes came into effect on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

The changes to be aware of are:

- Penalty notices issued for offences that take place after 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024 will be charged at a new rate of £160 per parent per child. This can be paid at £80 if paid within 21 days.
- Any second penalty notice issued to the same parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period will be issued at the rate of £160 to be paid within 28 days with no option for a discounted rate.
- The threshold at which a penalty notice **must** be considered is set at 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-school week period. This may include absences as a result of arriving late after the register closes. The 10-school weeks may span different terms or school years.
- A maximum of 2 penalty notices may be issued to a parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period, so at the 3<sup>rd</sup> (or subsequent) offence(s) another course of action will need to be considered (such as prosecution).
- Only penalty notices issued for absences taking place after 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024 will count towards the above thresholds.

Please find links to two documents:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance>

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/back-into-school/resources-for-families/>

The attendance Policy has been reviewed, in line with the new statutory guidance, and can be found on the policies page of the school website.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries regarding this matter.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marie Cahill".

Marie Cahill  
Executive Head