

The Newman Catholic Collegiate



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Catholic Senior Executive Leader: Mr Ian Beardmore

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Dear Parents,

I wrote to you before the holidays and now write again to remind you about the collegiate policy on attendance.

From August 19th, the Government changed its rules and is increasing fines for children missing school without permission. If a child misses 5 days (10 sessions) without permission, there will be a fine. Unauthorised absences include holidays, being late, and any other absences not approved by the Principals.

As part of the new procedures, the school may carry out a home visit if a child is absent for *any* reason. Please do not be upset if we visit your house. We are doing this to check on your child's wellbeing, following Government guidelines.

Please see the link for parents which gives more detail [Fines for parents for taking children out of school: What you need to know – The Education Hub \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

I am writing to you now to make sure holidays are not booked during term time, as this **will** result in a fine.

Please understand that it is not the school or the collegiate that issues the fines; this is done by the Local Authority. The money from these fines goes directly to the Local Authority. Whilst we are reluctant to issue fines, we must follow Government rules and want to support you in building good habits and giving your children the best chance to do well in school.

I have attached a poster to this letter listing the fines, but simply put, the new fines will be as follows:

- For a first offence of 5 unauthorised days of absence, the fine will be £80 per parent, per child (if paid within 21 days).
- For a second offence of 5 unauthorised days of absence within 3 years of the previous fine, the fine will be £160 per parent, per child.
- For a third offence of 5 unauthorised days of absence within a 3-year period, parents will be taken to Magistrates' Court. Prosecution can lead to a criminal record and fines of up to £2500 per parent, per child. If found guilty, this would appear on a DBS certificate for 'failure to safeguard a child's education.'

Attendance is more important than ever, and I urge you to support our school and your child's education by ensuring that they attend school during term time. Please note our policy can be found on your school's website.

Thank you for your continued support.

Ian Beardmore
Catholic Senior Executive Leader
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