

# Not attending school?

The Welsh Government and Caerphilly Council are working hard to continually raise standards in schools.

As part of this process, it is important that steps are taken to improve pupil attendance levels and new fines, which are called 'Penalty Notices', for non-attendance have been introduced.

We recognise that these fines will cause some concern, but as attending school is a legal requirement, it is an option schools can use which the council will implement on their behalf.

In the past, parents of children with low attendance levels could be taken to Court and if found guilty could receive a fine of up to £2500 or even a prison sentence. These new fines will help reduce this happening, but court action could still be a 'last resort' in the worst cases.

## What do you need to know?

Your parents/ carers could receive a fine if you:

- Have more than 5 school days absent that are not authorised;
- Have at least 5 school days that are an unauthorised holiday and your attendance is already poor;
- If you are caught truanting or missing lessons in school hours and caught by the Police;
- Are regularly late for school after the register has been taken.

## Who has to pay the fine?

Whoever is responsible for you will have to pay the fine, this could be your mum, dad or carer.

## How much will they have to pay?

Depending on when the fine is paid, they range from £60-£120 for one child then £120-£240 for 2 children. Your parents will have more information on this.

## How can I avoid these fines?

There are lots of ways to avoid the fines including:

- Arriving at school on time;
- Your parents should arrange medical and dental appointments outside of the school day unless an emergency;
- Not taking time off school when you don't need to, for example, if it's your birthday, or to go shopping - these aren't reasons not to be in school!

If you are not able to be in school, ask your parents or carers to let school know as soon as possible.

***Remember, if you miss school regularly you may fall behind on work and not reach your full potential! If you have any problems that are stopping you attending school, you should speak to your Head of Year or form teacher, who will be happy to listen to you.***