

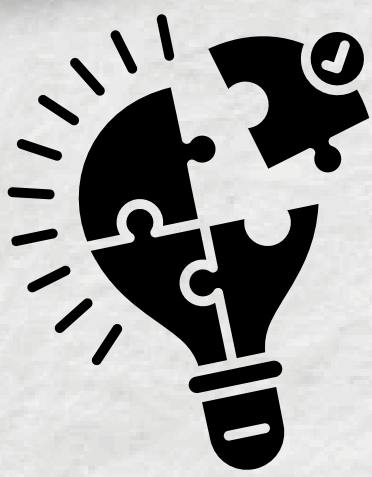
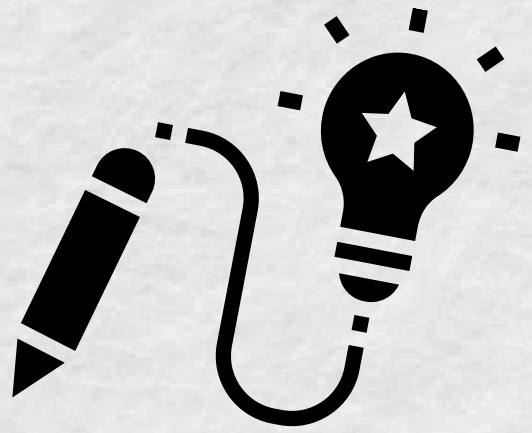
# SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND THE LAW

**01**

## THE LAW

By law all children of compulsory school age must receive an appropriate full-time education (Education Act 1996). Parents have a legal duty to ensure their child attends school regularly at the school at which they are registered.

New legislation was passed, The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 which introduced a National Framework in England.



**02**

## PENALTY NOTICES

There is now a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England, of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period.

**03**

## UNAUTHORISED ABSENCES

Types of unauthorised absence are:

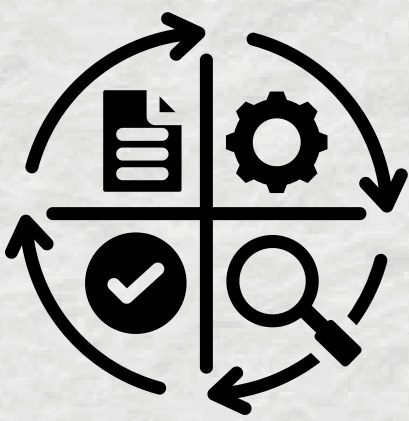
- G - unauthorised holiday
- O - Unauthorised absence for another circumstance
- U - late after registers have closed



**04**

## 10 WEEK PERIOD

The 10 sessions of absence do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence (G, O and/or U coded within the school's registers). The 10 school week period can span different terms, school years or education settings.



**05**

## FOR EXAMPLE...

You could be fined if you take 3 days holiday and are late 4 times in a 10 week period.

OR

You fail to tell us why your child is off school for a day, have 4 latemarks and take a 2 day holiday.

There are many variations now for which you can be fined.



**06**

## SANCTIONS

Sanctions may include issuing each parent with a Penalty Notice for £160, reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days (for the first offence). A second Penalty Notice issued within a three year period will result in a fine of £160 per parent, per child. If a third offence is committed the matter may be referred to the local authority for consideration of prosecution via the Magistrates Court.

