

## Legal Action

### Information for Parents

#### **Section 23(1) Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2007:**

Penalty Notices may be issued to the parent of pupils who have unauthorised absence from school. The amount of the penalty is £60.

- If this is not paid within 21 days, the amount rises to £120.
- If not paid within 28 days, the Local Authority may prosecute under Section 444(1) unless it comes to our attention that the penalty notice had been issued in error.

#### **Section 444(1) Education Act 1996:**

“If you are the parent of a child of compulsory school age who fails to attend school regularly, you are guilty of an offence.”

- The court can fine each parent up to £1,000 per child, order payment of the prosecution costs and/or impose a Parenting Order.

#### **Section 444(1A) Education Act 1996:**

“If in the above circumstances you, the parent, know that your child is failing to attend regularly at the school and fail without reasonable justification to cause him/her to attend, you are guilty of an offence.”

- The court can fine you up to £2,500 per child, order payment of the prosecution costs, impose a Parenting Order and/or sentence you to a period of imprisonment of up to 3 months.

#### **Please note that:**

- Penalties and prosecutions are in respect of each parent for each child.
- “Parent” includes any person who is not a parent but who has parental responsibility for the child or who has care of him/her.

**These prosecutions are criminal proceedings and could result in you having a criminal record.**

#### **How does your child compare?**

<b>Attendance during one school year</b>	<b>Equals this number of days absent</b>	<b>Which is approximately this many weeks absent</b>	<b>Which means this number of lessons missed</b>
<b>90%</b>	<b>19 days</b>	<b>4 weeks</b>	<b>100 lessons</b>
<b>80%</b>	<b>38 days</b>	<b>8 weeks</b>	<b>200 lessons</b>
	<b>57 days</b>	<b>11.5 weeks</b>	<b>290 lessons</b>

request absence can add up to a considerable amount of lost learning and can seriously disadvantage your child in adult life.