

Non-attendance at school

Newport schools and Newport City Council are working hard to raise standards and the achievements of our students. Parents and carers also have a legal responsibility to ensure their child attends school regularly. Children who miss school can fall behind with their work and do less well in exams.

Fixed Penalty Notices

In September 2014, Wales introduced a fixed penalty notice and fines for parents whose children have more than five days of unauthorised absence.

The notice can be issued for any absences not authorised by the school, including holidays, persistent lateness and truanting.

Newport City Council will issue these notices when concerns are raised by school or the police.

The fine is £120 unless paid within 28 days when it is £60. If the penalty is not paid in full by the 43rd day, this will result in legal action. Fines of up to **£900** have been issued for the non-payment of FPNs.

Legal action and prosecution

Should the local authority decide to take legal action you may be served with a summons to appear before the magistrates' court.

Possible outcomes of legal action include:

- Fines of up to £2,500
- Criminal conviction
- Imprisonment
- Education Supervision Orders

How can I avoid a fine or prosecution?

- Don't allow your child to have time off school unless it is completely necessary
- Arrive at school punctually and in time for registration
- Arrange medical and dental appointments, wherever possible, outside the school day
- Inform the school as soon as possible if your child will not be attending school

For further information or support please contact your head teacher, contact the Education Welfare Service on **01633 656656** or visit www.newport.gov.uk/schools

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