



The Ripley Academy and Sixth Form



Executive Headteacher: **Mrs H Frost-Briggs BA (Hons)**
We are **AMBITIOUS**. We are **COMMITTED**. We are **PROUD**.

Parent/Carer Fines and Prosecution for Student Absences

I just wanted to take the opportunity to write to you before the Summer Holidays to remind all our parents/carers of the new national framework regarding absences from school which will be in effect from September 2024.

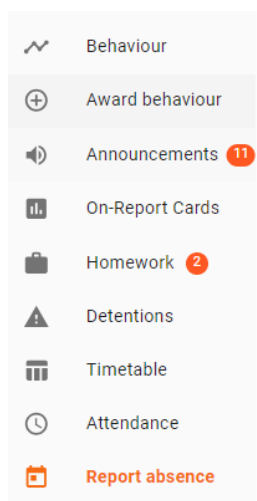
The Department for education states that:

Your child must attend every day that the school is open, unless there are exceptional circumstances including sickness which is monitored and will need evidencing by a medical professional for attendance below 90%.

The school recognises that the vast majority of our students have excellent attendance and are well-supported by parents/carers to ensure that their attendance remains high and that they attend punctually.

All student absences must be reported using Class Charts on the first day of absence and every other subsequent day of absence by 8:00am each morning. If school have not received notification on Class Charts by 8:40am when school commences, the absence will be treated as unauthorised.

Reminder – on your Class Charts App you need to click on ‘report absence’ to notify school of the absence.



If your child is absent or late for 10 or more sessions (5 days) for unauthorised reasons without having received advance permission from the headteacher to take your child out of school, the following actions under the new framework will be taken:



Step 1 - Fixed Penalty Notice (Fine)

A **fixed penalty notice** (otherwise known as a 'fine') will be issued when a child has missed 10 or more sessions (5 days) for unauthorised reasons. Separate fines will be issued to both parents who hold parental responsibility. The fine for school absences across the country will be **£80 if paid within 21 days**, or **£160 if paid within 28 days**. If you do not pay the fine, after 28 days this will escalate directly to Step 3 - Prosecution.



Step 2 – Fixed Penalty Notice (Fine)

In the case of repeated fines, if you receive a second fine for the same child within any three-year period, this will be charged at the **higher rate of £160**. If you do not pay the fine, after 28 days this will escalate directly to Step 3 - Prosecution.



Step 3 - Prosecution

Fines per parent are capped to two fines within any three-year period for the same child. Once this limit has been reached, other action will be pursued:

An Education Supervision Order from the family court may be applied for if you are unable to get your child to go to school. This will be applied for via the family courts. This will be done either initially or alongside a prosecution.

Prosecution you will have to go to court. You could get a fine (approximately £2500), a community order or a jail sentence up to 3 months. The court could also issue you a Parenting Order.

Money raised via fines is only used by the local authority to cover the costs of administering the system, and to fund attendance support. Any extra money is returned to the government. **The school do not financially benefit from the fines issued to our parents/carers.**

For nearly all pupils, the best place to be during term-time is in school, surrounded by the support of their friends and teachers. This is important not just for your child's learning, but also for their overall wellbeing, wider development and their mental health.

If you have any queries over the contents of this letter or wish to discuss any aspect further, please do not hesitate to contact me. I would also like to thank you in advance for your role in supporting your child's school attendance and punctuality.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mrs L Crowder".

Mrs L Crowder
Deputy Headteacher