



Smithdon High School  
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Dear Parent/Guardian

### **Attendance at School and Legal Intervention**

This is a reminder to all parents/carers regarding the law that requires them to ensure that their child attends school regularly. The Government remains very clear that schools must aim to have the highest attendance possible for all of their pupils in order for them to achieve their maximum potential.

The Local Authority operates a system where any pupil who has 10 consecutive sessions (5 days) of unauthorised absence or has attendance of 85% or less with unauthorised absence of at least 15% over a 6 week period will meet the criteria for legal intervention which could be in the form of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Any pupil in Smithdon High School who meets either of the criteria will be referred to the Local Authority for action to be considered.

If a Fixed Penalty Notice is issued it is a fine of £60 per parent per child which must be paid in one payment in 21 days. If unpaid, a further invoice for £60 per parent per child is issued; both individual invoices would then have to be paid making a total payment of £120 in 28 days. It should be noted that a 'parent' can include any individual who shares day to day responsibility for a child.

Failure to pay the total amount within the timescale will result in legal action being taken.

Research has shown that children often do not catch up on work missed, which can have serious consequences for their learning and progress. Our aim is to ensure that all our pupils receive the most from their education. I hope we can count on your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely

**Mr P Marsh  
Headmaster**

