



Blandford St. Mary
CE Primary School

'Let all that you do be done in love'

'Love, Hope, Respect, Perseverance, Responsibility'

Headteacher: Mrs Rosaleen Beaver PGCE BA (Hons)

Email office@blandfordstmary.dsat.org.uk

Website: www.blandfordstmary.dsat.org.uk

Wednesday 5th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Important information about school absences and fines

You may recall that a recent school newsletter included information about the government's new rules on school absences and fines (Fixed Penalty Notices), which came into effect in August 2024. While we know that most of our parents ensure their children have excellent attendance, we want to take this opportunity to remind everyone about these updated regulations.

Key Points to remember:

A fine may be issued if a child has 10 or more unauthorised absences (5 days) within any 10-week period. This applies even if the absences happen across different school terms or years.

The Fixed Penalty Notice threshold is:

- ANY 10 sessions (5 days) of unauthorised absence in a rolling 10-week period.
- A school week is defined as any week that there is 1 school session.
- The 10-week period can span different terms or different school years.
- It can be ANY combination of unauthorised absence.

Unauthorised absences include:

- Holidays taken in term time
- Arriving late after the register has closed
- Unacceptable reason given to the school for absence
- Our school not receiving contact from a parent to report an absence.

Fixed Penalty Notice charges are:

- First fine: £80 if paid within 21 days (£160 if paid within 28 days).
- Second fine (for the same child and parent within 3 years): £160 if paid within 28 days.
- No third fine can be issued. Instead, further legal action may be taken.

If a child moves schools, the local authority or previous school will check if fines have already been issued.

Please be aware that we regularly meet with the Local Authority Inclusion Lead to review attendance. This includes discussing children with attendance below 90% (persistent absentees) and identifying cases that may need to be referred for a Fixed Penalty Notice.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the vast majority of our parents who ensure their children attend school regularly and arrive on time each day. Your support in prioritising school attendance is truly appreciated. However, we must also remind everyone that Fixed Penalty Notices may be issued where necessary in line with the government's rules.

Please see the attached leaflets for more information.

Kindest regards



Mrs Rosaleen Beaver

Headteacher

Blandford St Mary CE Primary School
Birch Avenue
Blandford St Mary, Dorset DT11 9QD.
Tel: 01258 453331



Diocese of Salisbury
Academy Trust
'Beyond expectations for all of God's children'