

# The Newman Catholic Collegiate



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Catholic Senior Executive Leader: Mr Ian Beardmore

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Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Dear Parents,

I have written to you many times about how important it is for children to be in school and on time. Research clearly shows that children who attend school regularly get better grades and feel happier and healthier. This is why it's so important to build these habits early. Attending school is very important.

From August 19<sup>th</sup> this year, the Government is changing its rules and increasing fines for children missing school without permission. If a child misses 5 days (10 sessions) without permission, there will be a fine. Unauthorised absences include holidays, being late, and any other absences not approved by the Principals.

As part of the new procedures, the school may carry out a home visit if a child is absent for *any* reason. Please do not be upset if we visit your house. We are doing this to check on your child's wellbeing, following Government guidelines.

I am writing to you now to make sure holidays are not booked during term time next year, as this **will** result in a fine.

Please understand that it is not the school or the Collegiate that issues the fines; this is done by the Local Authority. The money from these fines goes directly to the Local Authority. Whilst we are reluctant to issue fines, we must follow Government rules and want to support you in building good habits and giving your children the best chance to do well in school.

I have attached a poster to this letter listing the fines, but simply put, the new fines will be as follows:

- For a first offence of 5 unauthorised days of absence, the fine will be £80 per parent, per child (if paid within 28 days).
- For a second offence of 5 unauthorised days of absence within 3 years of the previous fine, the fine will be £160 per parent, per child.
- For a third offence of 5 unauthorised days of absence within a 3-year period, parents will be taken to Magistrates' Court. Prosecution can lead to a criminal record and fines of up to £2500 per parent, per child. If found guilty, this would appear on a DBS certificate for 'failure to safeguard a child's education.'

Attendance is more important than ever, and I urge you to support our school and your child's education by ensuring that they attend school during term time.

Thank you for your continued support.

Ian Beardmore  
Catholic Senior Executive Leader  
The Newman Catholic Collegiate

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