

Persistent Absences and the legal implications

In education law, parents/carers are committing an offence if they fail to ensure the regular attendance of their child of compulsory school age at the school at which the child is registered, unless the absence has been authorised by the school.

All parents involved in the child's attendance are subject to the legal measures unless they do not have the capacity to change the attendance pattern. You must inform the college immediately and access a range of support offered if you feel you are unable to secure effective change in your child's attendance. The authorised person should consider every aspect of a student's circumstances before deciding whether to issue a Penalty Notice. Students will be referred to the ESS according to the current referral procedure. The ESS will work with the students and their families to encourage better attendance and to set attendance targets. In the first instance ESS will normally send a warning notice, if attendance doesn't improve this will escalate to a fixed penalty fine and if we still do not see the improvements that are required a prosecution.

Further information regarding absence/truancy can be found on the Dudley MBC website:

<http://www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/learning-school/parental-support/dudley-education-investigation-service/absence-and-truancy/>