

ST OSWALD'S CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

Christ Be Our Light

Our Catholic family of schools is committed to living and promoting Gospel values. Through mutual support and co-operation, we strive to foster the spiritual, physical, emotional and academic development of young people entrusted to our care where each person is valued as an individual. We aim for excellence in all we do.



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**St. Mary's
Catholic Voluntary Primary Academy**
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Catholic Voluntary Academy**
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(available to download from [website](#))

CONTACT INFORMATION



ST OSWALD'S
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

LEGAL INTERVENTION

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

PROSECUTION

If a child of compulsory school age fails to attend regularly a school at which they are registered, or at a place where alternative provision is provided for them, the parents may be guilty of an offence and can be prosecuted by the local authority.

PENALTY NOTICE

Penalty notices are an alternative to prosecution for non-school attendance. They are a fine of £60, payable in 21 days, if unpaid rising to £120, payable within 28 days from the issue of the notice.

The Education (Penalty Notices) Regulations 2007, as amended, details the process under which the scheme must operate. This includes a Penalty Notice Code of Conduct drawn up by the local authority. Details can be found at [www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/Attendance&Welfare Service](http://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/Attendance&WelfareService)

PARENTING ORDER

A Parenting Order is an ancillary order imposed by the court under the provisions of *section 8 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998*, for non-school attendance. The parents' agreement is not required before an order is made.

An order consists of 2 elements: counselling sessions (usually parenting support classes) to be attended for a period of up to 3 months and any other requirement, as prescribed in the order, lasting up to 12 months.

Breach of an order is enforced by the police, which could lead to a fine of up to £1000.

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

This is how Ofsted rates your child's school attendance

100%-99%	OUTSTANDING
98%-97%	GOOD
96%-95%	SATISFACTORY
94%-91%	INADEQUATE
90%-86%	CAUSE FOR CONCERN
85% & below	SERIOUS CONCERN

The Academy expects every child to have at least 97% attendance at any one time throughout the school year

The government expects schools to promote good attendance & reduce absence, including persistent absence; ensure every pupil has access to full-time education to which they are entitled and act early to address patterns of absence; to ensure all pupils are punctual to lessons.

St Oswald's Catholic Academy Trust fulfils these expectations through a robust attendance process which seeks to work closely with pupils and parents to achieve and sustain improvements to attendance and punctuality. Attendance practice is consistently applied across each academy.

The Attendance Policy is available to download from each academy website.

INTERVENTION

Where attendance is inadequate, a cause for concern or a serious concern; formal attendance processes will be initiated. The Attendance & Early Intervention Manger for St Oswald's Catholic Academy Trust will invite the parent to an Attendance Case Conference.

Legal processes will be considered.

Where the academy feels that prosecution is necessary, a court warning letter will be issued to the parent. If attendance does not improve after the issue of the letter, the academy will request the local authority to initiate legal proceedings.

The penalty notice is the preferred process by the academy. This requires a penalty notice warning letter to be issued, which advises the parent that to avoid issue of the fine, the parent must ensure their child attends school every day for 15 consecutive school days, as prescribed. After this period the parent will need to ensure regular school attendance is sustained or they may be liable to prosecution and the fine issued.

Fines are issued by the local authority at the academy's request. If the fine is issued and not paid, the local authority may pursue a prosecution for non-school attendance.

If the academy considers a Parenting Order is necessary, a letter will be issued by the academy to the parent advising of this action.

Legal Intervention is the last resort taken by the academy. It is hoped that good habits of school attendance can be established through working together and thereby avoiding legal proceedings.