What do you know about absence?

Parents/carers are legally responsible for ensuring their child receives an education, suitable to their age, ability and needs? *True or false?*

TRUE: not always through attendance at school, but is always monitored if Education Otherwise.

If you have 80% attendance at the end of the year, it means you will have missed:

a) 18 days
b) 38 days
c) 63 days

38 days

If parents/carers send a note in, the reason for the absence will be authorised. *True or false?*

FALSE: It's at the discretion of the Head teacher. E.g. Some Head teachers may request medical evidence to support regular/prolonged absences due to illness, other circumstances are judged on merit.

Parents could receive a penalty notice if their child doesn't attend school regularly, which includes taking holidays when it has not been agreed. *True or false?*

TRUE: 3 ways to get Penalty Notices:

1. unauthorised holiday – either unrequested, or unauthorised by school in full, or child not returned to school on the agreed date
2. continued unauthorised absence as part of EWO casework – 10 sessions in a 10-school week period
3. truancy patrols – being collected on two occasions within a 12-month period, with absences coded as unauthorised by the school

How much will a penalty notice cost a parent/carer?

a) £45
b) £80
c) £160

£80 – per parent, per child if paid within 21 days
£160 per parent, per child when paid between 21 and 28 days
If unpaid after these 6 weeks - court

On average, a primary pupil misses a minimum of two and a half weeks per year. *True or false?*

TRUE

If a child takes a two-week holiday, their attendance at the end of the year can't be more than 95%. *True or false?*

TRUE, especially for May collection of figures!

Most absences in Leicester City are caused by extended family holidays. *True or false?*

FALSE, although commonly misconceived.

Dealing with absence is the responsibility of the headteacher.
True or false?

FALSE – The Head teacher has ultimate responsibility for coding and following up absences, but parents legally have a responsibility to ensure their child attends school (S444 Education Act 1996). Teachers, mentors, EWOs etc can all play a role in promoting attendance, and when this is happening, best outcomes are achieved!