

## **Attendance: number of fixed penalty notices and court cases in 2012-13**

### **Number of Penalty Notices**

:	2012/13	196
	2011/12	194
	2010/11	154

### **Commentary**

The EWS received 604 Penalty Notice referrals regarding poor attendance and unauthorised leave absence (i.e. term-time holidays). The process around poor attendance PN requests is to issue warning notices encouraging the parent to resolve poor attendance over the next 15 school days or a Penalty Notice will be issued. From the 604 requests the LA only issued 196, which is an indicator of the positive impact that warning notices themselves have on improving attendance.

### **Number of Court Cases**

2012/13	123
2011/12	105
2010/11	162

### **Commentary**

The LA is also increasingly making use of non-court disposals such as Penalty Notices and Simple Cautions as an alternative to legal action where appropriate. We are using non-court disposals to target cases where an offence has clearly been committed but there has been a marked improvement (no more than 2 further days of unauthorised absence) in attendance between the time where a case is referred to the LA for legal action and the case is due to be heard at the magistrates court. It's too early to look at re-offending rates, however this approach avoids the use for potentially lengthy and expensive court action, whilst also still holding parents to account.