

Parents punished if kids late to school

10th June, 2014



Parents in the U.K. face being punished if their children are continually late for school. Britain's Education Secretary Michael Gove has announced he will crack down on what he terms "problem parents". He said too many families fail to "face up to their responsibilities" by ensuring their children get

to school on time, and are "ready to learn and show respect for their teacher". Parents are already slapped with a £60 (\$100) fine if their child is repeatedly late for school. However, 20,000 of these penalties were unpaid last year, prompting Mr Gove to announce a tougher penalty system. There will also be fines for parents who withdraw their children during term time to take them on cheaper family vacations.

Mr Gove said his plans were all part of raising standards in education, create a bigger incentive for parents to ensure their children get to school, and tackle the problem of "habitual truancy". Gove also hit back at his critics, accusing them of adhering to policies that set pupils up to fail and of promoting "a diet of dumbed-down courses". He said opposition politicians shied away "from anything which might require grit". Gove warned their policies would send children to school "without daring to think they might be intellectually curious and capable of greatness, denying them access to anything stretching or ambitious, and setting expectations so low you can never be surprised by someone's potential".

Sources: *Telegraph* / *SkyNews* / *Mirror.co.uk*

Writing

Punishing parents if children do not follow rules is a good idea. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

parents / late for school / responsibilities / on time / fine / penalty / family vacations / plans / standards in education / truancy / critics / opposition / politicians / potential

True / False

- Parents will be punished if their children are late for school even once. T / F
- The UK education secretary said families need to be more responsible. T / F
- Parents failed to pay around 20,000 lateness fines last year. T / F
- Parents can take children on family holidays during school time. T / F
- The UK government is aiming to reduce truancy levels via these fines. T / F
- The government said students would fail with the opposition's policies. T / F
- The education secretary said all children know they can be great. T / F
- The education secretary said the opposition sets standards too high. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. punished | a. making |
| 2. crack down on | b. duties |
| 3. responsibilities | c. strength of character |
| 4. prompting | d. stricter |
| 5. tougher | e. lifting |
| 6. raising | f. penalized |
| 7. incentive | g. constant |
| 8. habitual | h. promise |
| 9. grit | i. motivation |
| 10. potential | j. get tough on |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think of the education you had?
- What do you think of children who are always late for school?
- Is it a good idea to punish parents if students misbehave?
- How can we get students to show more respect to teachers?
- What do you think of the term "problem parents"?
- What should happen to parents if kids do not respect teachers?
- How much respect do children have for teachers in your culture?
- Is it wrong for kids to go on overseas vacations during school time?

Breaking News English - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Parents in the U.K. face | a. up to their responsibilities |
| 2. he will crack down on what | b. politicians |
| 3. many families fail to face | c. £60 (\$100) fine |
| 4. slapped with a | d. he terms "problem parents" |
| 5. announce a tougher | e. of "habitual truancy" |
| 6. part of raising | f. being punished |
| 7. tackling the problem | g. so low |
| 8. opposition | h. standards in education |
| 9. intellectually | i. penalty system |
| 10. setting expectations | j. curious |

Discussion – Student B

- What other incentives could we create for parents?
- What can schools do to reduce truancy?
- What kind of policies set students up to fail?
- What kind of grit did you show at school?
- What signs of greatness did you show as a kid?
- What expectations would / do you have of your own children?
- Have you realized your potential? Why?
- What questions would you like to ask Mr Gove?

Spelling

- tnuaylicnol late for school
- face up to their pinreiisselbtio
- their child is deetlrpyea late for school
- nrusgnie their children get to school
- anuoncne a tougher penalty system
- parents who ihtwdwra their children
- create a bigger eevntciin for parents
- the problem of habitual ratcyun
- sniopootip politicians
- intellectually suucori
- access to anything stretching or iumtiasbo
- surprised by someone's opalntiet

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. j	3. b	4. a	5. d
6. e	7. i	8. g	9. c	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Class size

You think class size is the best thing to raise education standards. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so effective in raising standards. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): the teacher, sleep or online learning.

Role B – The teacher

You think the teacher is the best thing to raise education standards. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so effective in raising standards. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): class size, sleep or online learning.

Role C – Sleep

You think sleep is the best thing to raise education standards. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so effective in raising standards. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): the teacher, class size or online learning.

Role D – Online learning

You think online learning is the best thing to raise education standards. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so effective in raising standards. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): the teacher, sleep or class size.

Speaking – Learning

Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest obstacles to learning at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| • class size | • too little sleep |
| • the teacher | • little parental support |
| • computer games | • television |
| • boring subject | • too many tests |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.