

Leave of Absence for holidays in term time

Time taken by children due to family holidays in term time can be disruptive to their education. We advise that wherever possible, absence from school should be avoided as it can have a serious effect on your child's educational progress, and can create difficulties for them on their return to school. Whenever possible therefore we would ask that family holidays should be arranged to take place during the school holidays.

New regulations in term time holiday requests came into force 1st September 2013, which mean schools no longer have the discretion to be able to grant **ANY** leave of absence for children during term time for holidays unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Parents are advised to put a request in writing to the Headteacher in order to look at the issues that could affect your child, before any decision to book a holiday during term time is made. If parents, contrary to what the school has said, still decide to take their child out of school for a holiday then the absence will be marked as **unauthorised**. This could lead to a fixed penalty notice being issued. These changes to legislation have been introduced as part of the Government's drive to improve attendance.

Where appropriate, discretionary leave of absence can be authorised as long as it is applied for in advance, eg religious observance, family funerals, etc, but not for family reunions, long weekends, day trips. For further information please visit www.education.gov.uk

We appreciate the financial difficulties that taking holidays outside of term time presents to parents, but as a school we put the pupils' education first. Many people are working very hard to help your child to succeed. We trust you will support us in this matter.