

Holidays in Term Time

Guidance for Parents & Carers Regarding School Attainment & Holidays in Term Time

British law determines that children of compulsory school age (between 5 & 16 years old) should receive a comprehensive schooling offer. In basic terms this means being IN school for 190 days each year.

Some families choose to book holidays during term time because it is more convenient for them or perhaps better value than at other times.

Families can apply to school in 'exceptional circumstances' for their child to be given permission to be excused from school. However, such permission is very limited and consequently very rarely granted. There is a form that you can use to request permission overleaf.

Children missing school are really missing out. They miss out on the lessons and learning that take place in school whilst they are absent. They also miss elements of a carefully designed curriculum that builds on itself as a continual foundation for the next learning phase. Absent children will struggle to catch-up on lost learning and new topics are not understood. Teachers do not have the time to repeat all of the lost learning. Children's social relationships are weakened while they are absent from school and opportunities for prizes, school trips and exam preparation forgone.

Children may also learn a bad life lesson that 'rules' can be 'broken' at the convenience of their parents or carers. We expect children to show respect to their school and teachers and we model and encourage for great attendance and punctuality. What conclusions might a child gain from being taken out of school knowing that this is against the school's rules and ethos.

*One week of schooling lost = 30 lessons of opportunity lost.
Two weeks of schooling lost = 6% of the total school year lost.*

All research shows that time off school means reduced learning and poorer outcomes for the children concerned.

Everybody family deserves a holiday but NOT at the expense of a child's education.





APPLICATION BY PARENT/CARER FOR CHILD'S
LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL DURING TERM TIME

Child's Name

Tutor Group/Class /Year Pupil's DOB/...../.....

Home Address

..... Postcode

I wish to apply for my child to be absent from school during the following dates:

Date of **Last day at School** Date of **Return to School**

Total number of school days missed

Reasons for absence from school: (Please note that school absences can only be granted in exceptional circumstance).

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Do you have any supporting documents or statements from professionals working with your family?
Please give brief details and attach any supporting documents with this form)

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I make application for my child named above to have authorised absence from school for the reasons stated. I understand that if this is not agreed then any absence will be treated as unauthorised and may lead to the issue of a Penalty Notice or a Summons for irregular school attendance.

Name of Parent/Carer making application

Signed Date

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM TO YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL GIVING AT LEAST 4 WEEKS' NOTICE OF INTENDED ABSENCE