Why shouldn't I request leave of absence during term time?

Because your child may:

- Get behind in their school work.
- Get lower results in assignments, tests or examinations because of missed work.
- Miss tests, examinations or deadlines for assignments.
- Feel excluded from their group of friends when he/she returns.
- May not understand some new work and lose self confidence.

Any absence in term time destroys the continuity of a child's education and reduces their chances of success.

Department for Education (DfE) Amendments to Education (Pupil Registration Regulations) with effect from September 2013 states:

- Remove reference to family holiday
- Make it clear that Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time, unless there are exceptional circumstances

Remember

- Any request for leave of absence must be made to the Head Teacher of your child's school in advance.
- National studies have shown that there is a strong link between school attendance and attainment at school.
- Poor attendance can seriously disrupt learning and is strongly discouraged especially at the start of the new academic year and during periods of exams.
- In primary school, any absence can have a real impact on the basic literacy and numeracy skills of some children.
- In secondary school, any absence can have a detrimental impact on exam results.
- Keeping children away from school for no good reason is a criminal offence.

Information for parents/guardians about FIXED PENALTY NOTICES

What is a Fixed Penalty Notice?

The Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003 allows a Local Authority to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for poor school attendance. These notices require a penalty to be paid by each parent/carer of each pupil who has unauthorised absence from school.

A Fixed Penalty Notice may be issued if you take your child out of school during term time, without the prior authorisation of the Head Teacher.

What are the penalties?

If a Fixed Penalty Notice is issued the penalty is £60, when payment is made within 21 days. After 21 days it will increase to £120. Failure to pay within 28 days is likely to result in a summons to appear before the Magistrates Court.

Always contact your child's school first, as the Head Teacher is the only person to whom the law gives discretionary power to grant the exceptional leave of absence.

You may also seek advice from an Education Welfare Officer who may be contacted through the Children's Action Team:

0118 9376545

Other Information Services:

Further information can be obtained by contacting www.gov.uk

LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

What you need to know



Brighter Futures for Children