

Holidays in term time

There are 365 days in a calendar year. Your child is expected to attend just 190 days *at school*.

This means there are 175 days for holidays, birthday treats, special events with families and non-urgent appointments.

If you choose to take your child out of school for 10 days during term time, your child can achieve no more than 94.7% school attendance for the academic year. This is equal to approximately 50 school sessions. The school's attendance percentage target is 95%.



Further information:

<https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence/overview>



Parent Information Leaflet

Leave of absence from school

Information for Parents/ Carers

Children of school-age who are on roll at a mainstream or special school must, by law, attend that school regularly and punctually.

Regular attendance is important, not just because the law requires it but also because it is the best way of ensuring children make the most of the educational opportunities available to them.

When a child is absent from school, he misses not only the teaching provided on the days when absent, but is also less prepared for the lessons on his return. This will lead to a risk of underachievement, which teachers and parents will both wish to avoid.

There may be occasions when a child has to miss school - for example, if unwell. Any other absences should be kept to an absolute minimum.

What the Law says

The regulations make it clear that parents **do not** have any automatic right or entitlement to take a child out of school.

Indeed, it is likely that in most cases The Headteacher will refuse to authorise the absence.

The Government has directed that Headteachers may now only grant leave for a holiday in term-time where there are exceptional circumstances.

Issues parents need to be aware of

If the absence request is not authorised by the school and the absence is still taken, this will be classified as unauthorised.

Should leave be granted but the child remain absent for longer than agreed, then this extra time will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Should a child fail to return to school on the agreed date consideration may be taken to remove them from the school roll. Parents would then be responsible for reapplying for a school place with no guarantee of a place

back at the same school.

Any leave of absence that has not been authorised may be referred to the Education Welfare Service. This may result in the issue of a Fixed Penalty Notice or prosecution proceedings.

A Fixed Penalty Notice is an alternative to prosecution, giving you an opportunity to discharge your criminal liability by paying a fine of £120, which must be paid within 28 days.

They are generally issued where there have been at least 10 sessions of unauthorised absence from school within a recorded 10 school week period. However, there are some occasions where they are issued outside of these criteria. If the matter proceeds to court this carries a maximum penalty of £1,000 per parent per child and a criminal conviction, which may affect your current and/or future employment.