

## Key things to remember:

- ◆ You can only allow your child to miss school if he or she is unwell, or if you have advance permission from the school.
- ◆ Absence requests will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.
- ◆ Without advance permission from school it could involve a parenting order, education supervisor order or school attendance order.



**Term-time**

**Leave of Absence**

**Please don't hesitate to contact us  
if you have any questions  
relating to  
term-time leave of absence.**



## What does the law say?

The government changed the rules on term-time leave absence in 2013.

Under the new rules, you can only allow your child to miss school if:

- ◆ He or she is too unwell to attend school.
- ◆ You have requested permission from the school in advance.

## How do I request permission for an absence?

You must submit a request to the school before you arrange for your child to have time away.

If you wish to take your child out of school during term time, you should submit a formal request to the Headteacher via the school office.

The Headteacher will then consider whether to give permission for the absence.

## When will absence requests be granted?

Permission for absence will only be granted in **exceptional circumstances**.

The Headteacher will consider each absence request individually and decide whether to grant the absence.

The Headteacher will also decide how many days your child can be away from school if the absence is granted.

## What if I take my child on an unauthorised absence?

If you take your child out of school without advance permission, (except where he or she is unwell), you can be prosecuted.

This could involve:

- ◆ A parenting order, education supervisor order or school attendance order when your child repeatedly misses school without a good reason.

## Why is it important?

Missing two weeks of school for a holiday might not seem like very much, but it can have a big effect on your child's education.

For example, if your child misses two weeks of school every year, this adds up to more than two terms over the child's whole time in school.

Making sure your child attends school as much as possible means:

- ◆ Your child will have the same education and opportunities as everyone else in the class.
- ◆ You won't need to worry about catching up on work, or that your child might fall behind because of missing an important lesson.
- ◆ Your child won't miss out on activities at the start and end of term, which are often fun and a chance to develop friendships.

### Exceptional circumstances:

It is at the school's discretion to decide which circumstances are 'exceptional'.

Examples of circumstances that are not exceptional may include:

- ◆ Cheap holidays or holidays that have already been paid for.
- ◆ Absence that coincides with important school events such as the start of term or assessments.

As a general guideline, exceptional absence circumstances usually apply only to immediate family. Requests for leave related to extended family and friends are likely to be refused.

You can find out more about the rules around term-time absence from the following sources:

#### **School attendance and absence:**

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

#### **The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013: regulation 2**

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/regulation/2/made>