

CHILDREN'S SERVICES



TAKING HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME

If you wish to take your child out of school during term time you will need to ask permission from the school before you book your holiday.

The facts

It is important that parents consider carefully the implications of taking their child out of school during term time. Research suggests that children who are taken out of school may never catch up on course work they have missed. This may affect test results and can be particularly harmful if the child is studying in final years.

The law

The law says parents do not have the right to take their child out of school for holidays during term time. In exceptional circumstances, schools can allow parents to take their child out of class for up to 10 days in a school year.

If a child is taken out of school without prior permission from the Head teacher of the school, this will be recorded as unauthorised absence and noted on the child's record. This may result in parents being issued with a fixed penalty notice of £50 if paid within 28 days, which goes up to £100 if paid within 42 days. If this is not paid within 42 days, parents could face prosecution and a fine of £1000.

The decision

When deciding whether to allow term time leave consideration is given to:

- The child's age
- The time and duration of the leave
- The child's record of attendance
- The child's ability
- Previous term time leave

What you should consider

There are times during a school year when a child may experience particular problems because of term time leave such as:

- Close to exams or tests, for example Standard Attainment Tests (SAT's) in years 2 and 6
- During GCSE, A level and other examinations
- During the first year at a new school
- At the beginning of a new school term

If the school refuses a request for term time leave and the child is still taken out of school, this will be recorded as unauthorised absence and noted in the child's record.

Contact us

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