



## HOLIDAYS IN TERM-TIME

**IMPORTANT:** Please read carefully the information below.

**WARNING:** If you take your child on holiday in term time without the prior approval of the school, you may be liable for a minimum of £60 Penalty Notice per child.

As a parent/carer, you can demonstrate your commitment to your child's education by, whenever possible, taking your holidays during school holidays.

**If your child's attendance falls below 95%, a meeting may be arranged with the school nurse and the education welfare officer in order to discuss your child's health etc.**

### THE FACTS

We recognise that it is often expensive to take a holiday during school breaks and that is why some parents may ask for term-time leave for their child. However, it is important that parents carefully consider 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 the course work they have missed. This may affect test results and can be particularly harmful if the child is studying for final year examinations.

Children who struggle with English or Mathematics may also find it even harder to cope when they return to school, while younger children may find it difficult to renew friendships with their classmates.

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 you may receive a fine per parent for each child.

### THE LAW

The law does not say that parents have an automatic right to take their child out of school during term-time. However, in exceptional circumstances school may authorise, in advance, requests for periods of leave of no more than ten days in total in any year.

If a child then stays away from school for more than the authorised period this must be recorded as unauthorised absence and could be quoted in a prosecution for poor attendance.

**If the child is away from school for a total of four weeks or more, the school may have to take the child off roll unless there is a good reason for the continued absence, such as illness.** In these circumstances it is up to the parent to inform the school as once removed from roll, there is no guarantee that the child will regain a place at the school.

### **Other absence from school will be authorised if it is for the following reasons:**

- Genuine illness
- Unavoidable medical / dental appointments (but try to make these after school if at all possible)
- Days of religious observance
- Exceptional circumstances, such as bereavement
- Seeing a parent who is on leave from the armed forces
- External examinations
- When Traveller children go on the road with their parents

### **Other absence from school will not be authorised:**

- For any type of shopping
- Looking after brothers, sisters or unwell parents
- Minding the house
- Birthdays
- Resting after a late night
- Relatives visiting or visiting relatives
- Cheap holidays

We hope that when you have read this leaflet you will consider that your child's education is too important to take holidays during term time.