

REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

NOTICE TO PARENTS/CARERS

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Department for Education has amended the regulations and guidance in relation to absences in term-time. There is no automatic right to take your child out of the academy during term time.

*From 1st September 2013, the Department for Education will only allow a Head Teacher to grant a leave of absence if there are **exceptional circumstances**.* In determining whether or not an absence in such circumstances can be authorised, it is for the Head Teacher to determine the number of days a child can be away from the academy *if* the leave is granted.

Please be aware that the cheaper cost of holidays during term time is **not** deemed an exceptional circumstance. If the request is due to parent/carer work commitments during academy holidays, please provide a letter from your employer in support of your application. Please note that the academy may contact employers to verify the information supplied.

All absence requests must be completed on the form attached to this notification. Please return the completed form, together with any supporting documentation (e.g. employer's letter), to the academy reception. PLEASE MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE HEADTEACHER TO DISCUSS YOUR REQUEST. Forms should be returned a minimum of 10 academy days before the start of the absence.

Please note that any absence from the academy for illness immediately before or after a request for leave will be unauthorised without the provision of medical evidence and could result in the whole request for leave being unauthorised. Where a child is absent on the grounds of ill health but a holiday absence is suspected, you may be asked to provide medical evidence or you may receive a visit from our Attendance Officer.

If the absence requested is not considered to be an exceptional circumstance, and you nevertheless take your child out of the academy, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised in line with Education Welfare guidance.

In the case of an unauthorised leave of absence of five academy days or more, for a child who is of statutory school age, the Education Welfare Service will be notified and a Penalty Notice will be issued by the Local Education Authority. Please note that Penalty Notices are issued to *each* parent for *each* child taken out of the academy. A Penalty Notice is a fine of £160 which is reduced to £80 if paid within the first 21 days. Failure to pay a penalty notice may result in prosecution through the Magistrates Court. The academy does not receive any monies from the issuing of penalty notices as this money goes to the Local Authority.

Please see attached notice re national changes to penalty notices from 19th August 2024. Fines will increase for a second offence within 3 years and for third or further offences, parents/carers will face prosecution at the Magistrates' Court.

Reducing absence from schools/academies is a key priority, both nationally and locally because missing school not only disrupts a child's learning but is also detrimental to a child's long term life opportunities. You may consider some absences to be educational but your child will still miss out on the teaching that their classmates will receive. Children returning from an absence are unprepared for the lessons which build on the teaching they have missed. Teachers then have to give more time to help individual children catch up on missed work. This poses a potential risk of the under achievement of other students in the class. This is something we **all** have a responsibility to avoid.

I hope you will support our efforts to raise attendance and attainment at our academy.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S P Bate
Headteacher,

APPLICATION FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

If, after reading the attached letter, you consider you have exceptional circumstances to request a leave of absence during term time, please complete this form and return it to the academy at least **10** days before the date you wish to remove your child from the academy. **Please make an appointment to discuss your request for leave with the Headteacher.**

Pupil Name(s):.....Class(es):.....

First day of absence:.....Last day of absence:.....

Total number of academy days to be missed:.....

Holiday is to be taken **ABROAD** or in the **UK** (please tick relevant box)

Details of Parent(s)/Carer(s) accompanying child on holiday:

FIRST NAME	SURNAME	HOME ADDRESS

Have you previously requested a leave of absence during this academic year? **YES/NO**
(The academic year runs from September to July)

If yes, please state number of academy days already taken:.....

Exceptional circumstances are as follows: (if None, please state "None"):

In the case of an unauthorised leave of absence of five academy days or more, for a child who is of statutory school age, the Education Welfare Service will be notified and a Penalty Notice will be issued by the Local Education Authority. Please note that Penalty Notices are issued to *each* parent for *each* child taken out of the academy. A Penalty Notice is a fine of £160 which is reduced to £80 if paid within the first 21 days. Failure to pay a penalty notice may result in prosecution through the Magistrates Court. The academy does not receive any monies from the issuing of penalty notices as this money goes to the Local Authority. Please see attached notice re national changes to penalty notices from 19th August 2024. Fines will increase for a second offence within 3 years and for third or further offences, parents/carers will face prosecution at the Magistrates' Court.

SIGNED: (PARENT/CARER):.....DATE: ___/___/___
(Please ensure you give at least 10 academy days' notice of the proposed absence if possible)

HEADTEACHER'S COMMENTS:

AUTHORISED:

Your request has been authorised for the following dates: ___/___/___ to ___/___/___

UNAUTHORISED:

Your request has been unauthorised for the following dates: ___/___/___ to ___/___/___

It is not considered that the circumstances you describe are exceptional. If you proceed to take the absence a Penalty Notice/s will be issued (in the circumstances described above).

SIGNED:..... (HEADTEACHER) DATE: ___/___/___



PUPIL ATTENDANCE – NATIONAL CHANGES EFFECTIVE FROM 19TH AUGUST 2024 ONWARDS:

PENALTY NOTICE FINES FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IS CHANGING

1

FIRST OFFENCE

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days
Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

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SECOND OFFENCE (WITHIN 3 YEARS)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child to be paid within 28 days. No reduced rate will be offered.

The following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued after **19th August 2024**.

3

THIRD OFFENCE AND ANY FURTHER OFFENCES (WITHIN 3 YEARS)

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child. Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on a Parents future DBS certificate, due to failure to safeguard a child's education.

10 SESSIONS (5 DAYS) OF UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE IN A 10-WEEK PERIOD

Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there has been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period.

Please follow the link for the Publication that will start from 19th August 2024.
www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance



2022-2025