



Amendments to School Attendance Regulations

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you to inform you that the School Attendance Regulations 2006 have been amended with effect from September 2013. The key amendments relate to the granting of leave for the purpose of family holidays in term time.

“Amendments to the 2006 regulations remove references to family holiday and extended leave as well as the statutory threshold of ten school days. The amendments make clear that the Head teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Head Teachers should determine the number of days a child can be away from school if the leave is granted”

The new law does not give any entitlement to parents to take their child on holiday during term time. Any application for leave must be in exceptional circumstances and the Head Teacher must be satisfied that the circumstances warrant the granting of leave.

From Monday the 25th of November holidays/absence in term time will not be granted unless there are exceptional circumstances (examples of these are listed below).

We will not accept as an exceptional circumstance the fact that a holiday is cheaper during term time.

An exceptional circumstance is much more likely to be a one-off, unique situation such as:

- In some cases a parent's employer might restrict holidays to a certain time-period. In these circumstances we may ask for written confirmation from the employer.
- A parent or grandparent is seriously/terminally ill and the holiday proposed is likely to be the last such holiday
- There has recently been a death or other significant trauma in the family and it is felt that an immediate holiday might help the child concerned better deal with the situation

We will also look very carefully at the child's previous attendance record and should their average attendance be below 95%, it is highly unlikely that we will agree to authorise any further absence.

Please note if you have already had a holiday approved (i.e. before 25/11/13) this will still be granted as an authorised holiday.

Yours sincerely,

Melanie Ravenscroft

Head Teacher