



Holidays in Term Time

The Education Act states that parents and carers must ensure that their children of school age receive daily education.

The Government has changed the legislation with regard to children missing school during term time to go on a holiday. Schools are only able to authorise holidays in '**exceptional circumstances**', so for example low cost travel arrangements made by a family member or friend is not an 'exceptional circumstance.'

Many parents think that time that their children miss from school because of a holiday doesn't affect their school work. However a child who has 10 days holiday each year of their school life will miss 24 weeks, nearly a **full school year of their formal education.**

Where children have unauthorised absence as a result of a family holiday during term time, legal action may be taken against each parent/carer under the following legislation.

Section 44(1) of the Education Act 1996 provides that a parent commits an offence if his or her child, being of compulsory school age fails to attend regularly the school at which he/she is a registered pupil. Section 444a allows for a penalty notice to be issued to parents who commit such an offence. The penalty is £60 if paid within 21 days or £120 if paid with 28 days. Failure to pay may result in prosecution where on conviction you could be liable to a fine of up to £1000.(Further guidance can be found under Penalty Notices).

If you have any concerns regarding this matter then please speak to the Headteacher as it is her decision as to whether or not your circumstances are exceptional. Please also see our Attendance Policy which is available on the school website.