



Holiday requests and unauthorised absences

Dear Parents & Carers

Please be aware that **requests for holiday absence will not usually be authorised.** This is because a school can only authorise such a request if they are satisfied that there are "exceptional circumstances" which apply. However, even if there are exceptional circumstances, schools can still consider any other relevant factors such as previous attendance rates; the ability of the pupil to catch-up on missed work; the wider impact of missing the specified period of time.

Schools are only allowed by law, to authorise non-medical absences if requested in advance by a parent with whom the pupil normally resides.

After a substantial loss of learning time over the past few years, all schools have had to consider how best to ensure that every child catches up and achieves the best academic outcomes possible for them. We are also mindful of the impact that the disruption to education has had on friendships, social skills and pupil's wellbeing. We believe that children do best when they are in school learning alongside their friends every day.

Parents should ensure that they know whether the absence will be authorised or not as an unauthorised absence *may* result in a penalty notice or court summons being issued to each parent for each pupil affected.

Kind regards

Su and Faye