

AM I ALLOWED TO TAKE MY CHILD/REN ON HOLIDAY DURING TERM TIME?



Absences can have a lasting effect on learning. Missing a week of school means your child will miss around 25 hours of learning. This creates gaps in their knowledge and could mean they will not meet their full potential.

Absences will **not** be authorised during term time except in exceptional circumstances. It is very important that all parents/carers understand that children with unauthorised absences, including holidays, and unexplained absences are at risk of receiving a **Fixed Penalty Notice** from the Local Authority.

Penalty notices issued for offences that take place after 19 August 2024 will be charged at a new rate of £160 per parent per child. This can be paid at £80 if paid within 21 days.

Any second penalty notice issued to the same parent for the same child within a rolling 3 year period will be issued at the rate of £160 to be paid within 28 days with no option for a discounted rate.

The threshold at which a penalty notice must be considered is set at 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period. This may include absences as a result of arriving late after the register closes. The 10 school weeks may span different terms or school years.

A maximum of 2 penalty notices may be issued to a parent for the same child within a rolling 3 year period, so at the 3rd (or subsequent) offence(s) another course of action will need to be considered (such as prosecution or one of the other attendance legal interventions).

Only penalty notices issued for absences taking place after 19 August 2024 will count towards the above thresholds.



There are 175 non-school days in a year. This is 175 days to spend family time, visits, holidays, shopping and other appointments.