

# Holidays in school time Information for parents

## The Law

**From 1 September 2013 /April 2014? Government regulations** around holidays in term-time have changed.

The changes make it clear that schools may not grant any leave of absence from school during term-time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

This means that applications for leave of absence for the purpose of a holiday in term-time will be refused unless parents can demonstrate and prove there are exceptional circumstances relating to the holiday request.

If you take your child out of school without permission this will be recorded as unauthorised absence (truancy) and may result in parents/carers being issued with a fixed penalty notice for each child taken out of school.

### School's decision

When deciding whether to allow term-time leave, the school will consider:

- The child's age
- The child's record of attendance
- The time and duration of the leave
- Previous term-time absences
- Whether there are exceptional circumstances relating to the request

We recognise that it is often expensive to take a holiday during school breaks and that it why some parents may ask for term-time leave for their child.

However, it is important that parents carefully consider the implications of taking their child out of school during term-time. There are 190 statutory school days in one year. There are 175 days (week ends and school holidays) available to use for holidays which would not have a negative effect on your child's education.

## Parent/Carer decision

There are a number of things to consider if you decide to apply for leave of absence for your child during term-time.

There are times during a school year when a child may experience particular problems because of term-time leave such as:

- If your application for leave of absence is not approved , this could lead to a penalty notice being issued.
- Children who need help in certain subjects need to access all the educational support that is offered.
- Some children may find it difficult to renew friendships with their classmates when they return to school.
- Your child may miss out on valuable group work with classmates or miss key topics or themes that cannot be repeated and will lead to gaps in learning.
- It could embarrass and lower your child's self esteem to have to ask for help to catch up in each lesson.
- It could be disruptive for other pupils in lessons, when your child needs extra help to catch up.
- Missing 'Induction Week', when Year 6 primary pupils visit their new secondary school, to familiarise themselves with the new school layout.
- Settling in problems during the first year at a new school, especially at periods of transition, from Year 2 Infant to Year 3 Junior school and from Year 6 primary to Year 7 secondary school.
- Please consider the unspoken message you are giving your child, by letting them think it is acceptable to miss school.
- Disadvantages if close to exams or tests, for example, SAT's in Years 2 and 6 (in May each year).
- Disadvantages during GCSE exams, controlled assessments and final assignments in year 10 and Year 11.

Some people with severe truancy problems told us that it all started when they had a week or two off school for a holiday.

### **Every day at school counts!**

Please take your child on holiday during the school holidays.

## Do you require Braille Large type and translations section please?

For further enquiries please contact:

Early Help Educational Support Officers  
McNay Street Children's Centre  
2A McNay Street  
Darlington  
DL3 6SW  
Tel: 01325 406250.



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**This document will be made available  
on request to Children's Services in  
whatever way people need.  
Braille, large print and audio cassettes  
are also available in other languages.  
Telephone: 01325 406250**

### Arabic

إذا رغبت الحصول على هذه النشرة بلغة أخرى غير اللغة الإنجليزية نرجو  
الاتصال بنا على رقم الهاتف التالي 01325 406250 مع ذكر رقم الإشارة.

### Bengali

যদি আপনার ইংরেজী ছাড়া অন্য কোন ভাষায় এই প্রকাশনাটির দরকার থাকে, তাহলে 01325 406250  
নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করুন এবং সূত্র নম্বর উল্লেখ করুন।

### Cantonese

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### Hindi

यदि आप यह प्रकाशन अंग्रेजी के अलावा अन्य भाषा में चाहते हैं तो कृपया संदर्भ नम्बर (रेफरन्स नम्बर)  
बताकर निम्नलिखित 01325 406250 पर संपर्क करें।

### Punjabi

ਜੇ ਇਹ ਪਰਚਾ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ੀ ਤੋਂ ਬਿਨਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦਾ ਹੈ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ  
ਸਾਨੂੰ ਨੰਬਰ 01325 406250 ਤੇ ਫ਼ੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਅਤੇ ਰੈਫ਼ਰੈਂਸ (ਹਵਾਲਾ) ਨੰਬਰ ਦੱਸੋ।

### Urdu

اگر آپ کو یہ کتابچہ انگریزی کے علاوہ کسی دوسری زبان میں درکار ہو تو براہ مہربانی نیشنل ہون نمبر  
01325 406250 پر فون کر کے حوالہ  
نمبر بتائیں۔

### Polish

Jeśli chciał(a)by Pan(i) otrzymać polską wersję językową tego dokumentu, proszę zadzwonić  
pod numer 01325 406250 i podać numer identyfikacyjny dokumentu.