

Issues that parents need to be aware of

Should a school not agree to grant leave and parents take their child on holiday regardless then this will be counted as unauthorised absence – this is the same as ‘truancy’.

The school and The Attendance and Engagement Officer may consider issuing a Fixed Penalty Fine £50 for this period of unauthorised absence.

Should leave be granted but your child remains absent for longer than agreed then this extra time will be recorded as unauthorised absence.

Should your child fail to return to school within 10 school days of the agreed return date and there is no contact from the parents the school may report the child to the authorities as ‘missing’.

Extended visits overseas

Occasionally holidays of more than 10 days to visit family overseas may be unavoidable. In such circumstances schools will recognise the importance and significance such visits often have and will wish to ensure that a positive discussion with the parents takes place beforehand.

Schools will stress to parents the likely educational impact upon a child if extended leave is taken during term-time. Schools will also seek to explain what work a child will miss at school, how this may be addressed on return and how the parents can help.

Schools may also consider giving your child work to do while he or she is away.



For further help contact::

Attendance & Engagement Team
c/o Foxcombe Court
Abingdon Business Park
Wyndyke Furlong
Abingdon OX14 1DZ

Telephone: (01865) 323513
Fax: (01865) 783327

Information is also available on the Internet at

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk
Oxfordshire County Council's website

www.oxfordshireservicesdirectory.org.uk
Directory for parents/carers and people working
with children



FAMILY HOLIDAYS DURING TERM-TIME AND EXTENDED VISITS OVERSEAS



Information for Parents/Carers



Introduction

Children of school-age who are registered at a school, must, by law, attend that school regularly. Regular attendance is the best way of ensuring that your child makes the most of the educational opportunities which are available to him or her.

When your child is absent from school, he or she misses not only the teaching provided but is also less prepared for the lessons after his or her return.

In particular, parents should avoid taking their children out of school during term-time in order to go on holiday.

There are only 190 statutory school days in one year and 175 days (weekends and school holidays) available to use for holidays. Therefore EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS!

90% attendance means that your child is absent from lessons for the equivalent of one half day every week.

Over five years this is the equivalent of about one half of a school year.

Schools Policies

All schools will have a policy about term-time holidays either in the school brochure or in the school's attendance policy.

This policy will discourage parents from arranging family holidays during term-time and state that leave for term-time holidays will not be granted unless there are exceptional circumstances.

What are 'exceptional circumstances'?

It is for the headteacher to decide on what might constitute exceptional circumstances and each request for term-time holiday will be considered on an individual basis.

Examples of exceptional circumstances are:

- A parent, grandparent or other close relative is seriously ill.
- There may have been a significant trauma in the family recently and the head teacher may consider that an immediate holiday might enable the child to cope with the situation.
- The holiday might be a unique, one-off never-to-be-repeated occasion which can only take place at the time requested.

When permission is likely to be refused

- If your child has already had some absence in the current or preceding year.
- It is near or during exam or test times.
- It coincides with the start of the school year.
- The reason given is that the holiday is cheaper in term-time.
- The school believes that it may have a harmful effect on your child's education.



What the law says

The regulations make it clear that parents do not have any right or entitlement to take their child out of school for the purposes of a term-time holiday.