



'Dream, Believe, Achieve Together'

Important Information Regarding holiday Requests 2017-18

Dear Parents and carers

Holidays taken during term time

The Government discourages the taking of holidays in term time. Evidence shows that children who miss school do not achieve as well as those who attend regularly.

As of September 2013, the law has restricted a Head Teacher's ability to authorise holidays during term time. Head Teachers are now only empowered to approve a leave of absence when it is requested in advance by the parent or carer with whom the child resides and when circumstances of the requested leave are 'exceptional'.

From September 2017 should you choose to take a holiday for 5 consecutive school days or more during term time the Local Authority will be informed as this will constitute an unauthorised absence. A Fixed Penalty Notice will then be issued in accordance with section 444 of the Education Act 1996.

The law stipulates that the current penalties payable by parents are £60 when the penalty is paid within 21 days and £120 when the penalty is paid within 28 days. This penalty is per parent/carer per child.

If the fixed penalty is not paid this could lead to you being prosecuted in the Magistrates' Court.

If you feel this decision has not taken into account any relevant exception circumstances, please contact the school immediately for further discussion.

As a school, we fully appreciate the financial difficulties that some parents face when booking holidays, particularly during school holidays however, there is an expectation that all schools in Cheshire West and Chester introduce firm policies and stringent checks to ensure that there is a significant reduction in the number of absences during term time.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the school to thank you for your full support in this matter by not taking your child out of school during term time.

This new legislation will bring about increased attendance and improving standards in our borough's schools. Further information can be obtained from www.dfe.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Headteacher

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