

INFORMATION REGARDING TERM-TIME HOLIDAYS

Even though the much lower cost of holidays during school term times encourages many families to consider the idea of taking their child out of school during the academic year to facilitate a cheaper family holiday, the first thing to note is that the law does not allow for this.

Parents do not have an automatic right to take their child out of school for a holiday, because the law (the Education Act) reads that parents have a duty to ensure that their child receives an education. If your child is attending school, that is the way that they receive their education and that should be prioritised over any holiday plans.

From September 2013 the Department for Education amended the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 removing the Head Teacher's ability to authorise leave of absence, except in exceptional circumstances.

The Academy's Attendance Policy (revised March 2018) confirms that:

- The Academy may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are very exceptional circumstances. These could include: service personnel returning from tour of duty, leave of absence recommended by a health professional as part of a parent's or the child's rehabilitation, the death or terminal illness of a person close to the family, to attend the wedding or funeral of a person close to the family or where the school has evidence that there are other pressing personal issues for the family that would warrant a short break from school.
- Applications for leave of absence must be made in writing to the Principal of the Academy. The Principal of the Academy will make the decision of acceptance or refusal. The Academy can take into account the student's previous record of attendance. The fundamental principles for defining 'exceptional' are 'rare, significant, unavoidable and short'. By 'unavoidable' it implies that an event could not reasonably be scheduled at another time.

Ref KCC Education Penalty Notices Code of Conduct, effective from 1st January 2016, revised April 2017

If holidays are taken during term time without authorisation, a request may be made by the Academy for a Penalty Notice to be issued. Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each child and the amount of the penalty will be £120 to be paid within 28 days, reduced to £60 if paid within 21 days. Failure to pay the penalty in full at the end of the 28 day period may result in prosecution through the Magistrates Court.

Further information on school attendance and Kent County Council's policies may be found at www.kent.gov.uk.