

Churchill Family of Schools

Position statement on Term Time Holidays

School attendance is central to raising standards in education and ensuring all children can fulfil their potential and we expect all children on roll to attend every day, when the school is in session, as long as they are fit and healthy enough to do so. Under section 7 of the Education Act 1996, parents are responsible for making sure that their children of compulsory school age receive a full-time education.

All children of statutory school-age who are registered at a school must, by law, attend that school regularly. Any absence from school can seriously disrupt a pupil's continuity of learning and have a detrimental effect on their future progress. Regularly taking time off school for family holidays and events can have a significant impact on a child's achievement. The law requires that all schools have an attendance register that records which pupils are present at the start of both the morning and afternoon sessions of the school day. This register will also indicate whether an absence was 'authorised' or 'unauthorised'. National codes enable the school to record and monitor attendance and absence in a consistent way that complies with regulations.

An absence is classified as unauthorised when a child is away from school without the permission of both the school and a parent. Therefore the absence is unauthorised if a child is away from school without good reason, even with the support of a parent.

Department of Education Attendance Regulations, from September 2013, dictated that Headteachers should only authorise leave of absence in exceptional circumstances. If a Headteacher grants a leave request, it will be for the Headteacher to determine the length of time that the child can be away from school. Leave is unlikely, however, to be granted for the purposes of a family holiday. While Leave of Absence may be granted during term time, it is entirely at the Head teacher's discretion and it is not a parental right.

If a parent removes their child from school without requesting a leave of absence or without authorisation from the Headteacher, the parent will be informed in writing that a referral is being made to the Local Authority requesting a Penalty Notice be issued.

A Penalty Notice is a fine of £60 if paid within 21 days of receipt, rising to £120 if the notice is paid after 21 days but within 28 days.