

Unauthorised Holidays - what you need to know.

Changes from September 2017

Following on from the decision of the Supreme Court in the case *Isle of Wight v Platt* on the matter of 'regular attendance' and the decision that there are sound policy reasons for not allowing term time holidays unless there are exceptional circumstances, Cheshire West and Cheshire Legal Team have considered the options for the Council regarding this outcome and the issuing of Education Fixed Penalty Notices and the decision has been made to recommence with the policy from September 2017.

What this means for parents

During this school year, September 2016 - August 2017, we have had an unusually high amount of requests for holiday during term time and this may or may not be because of the Supreme Court and the fact that the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices was suspended by Cheshire West & Chester Council until a final ruling had been made.

After all our whole school community working together to continue our attendance increasing year on year, we will now see a decline which reflects on the whole school.

From September 2017 pupils should attend school on each day they are required to do so.

Any requests for a holiday to be taken in the new academic year September 2017 or thereafter which is not considered to be in exceptional circumstances will be recorded as unauthorised and a Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued.

Unauthorised Holidays - what you need to know.

Please be aware that one weeks holiday is 10 learning sessions missed:

- 5 English lessons
- 5 Maths lessons
- 5 Phonics or Essential English sessions
- 2 PE sessions
- 1 RE lesson
- And a number of Creative Curriculum sessions

All this equates to 32.5 hours of learning. Learning that will be missed and possible gaps in important life skills.

May I also remind parents that absences from school during May for Year 6 and Year 2 children are not acceptable due to SAT's. In Year 6 any absences due to a holiday will not be a justifiable and acceptable reason for a timetable variation and so your child would miss their test.

Every January our newsletter clearly states when these take place. The month of May is Year 2 SAT's and a set week in May is for Year 6 SAT's. Another fortnight when children **MUST** be in school is for Year 1 children for their Phonics Screening check - 12th June to 23rd June this year.

Please note that our up to date Attendance Policy will be on the website once agreed at our Full Governing Body meeting on 21st June with examples of all the letters you would receive if you were to take your child out of school for a holiday. Please take time to read it.

May I also remind parents that our holidays for the current school year and the following two years are always on the website or available at the office.

Thank you for your support and let us continue to work together so your children can access their learning every day and see our attendance start to increase again.