

St. Mary's R. C. School in Redcar and Cleveland - Absence in Term-time Policy New Regulations - September 2016

Holidays in term time can damage a child's education and future life prospects, particularly for those pupils with existing attendance problems, struggling with education or being absent at critical times in the school year. The Redcar and Cleveland Children's Services are committed to working in partnership with schools and families to manage and reduce school absence due to term time holidays. The school, in partnership with the Local Authority, has produced a leaflet to give to parents explaining the policy on taking holidays in term time (This is also clearly defined in our Attendance Policy, Attendance Leaflet and Absence in Term Time Policy). All parents have received a copy of this Attendance Leaflet (October 2013) and this, and all other policies relating to attendance and holidays in term time, are posted on our school website .

Important Information regarding new regulations from the Department for Education

The Department for Education have made amendments to the regulations with regard to school attendance. Previously head teachers were allowed to grant leave of absence during term time of up to 10 school days if the leave of absence application met the criteria set out by the Department for Education.

From 1st September 2013 this is no longer the case. Under new regulations schools are **no longer allowed to authorise leave of absence for family holidays**. From September head teachers may not grant any leave of absence for pupils during term time.

In summary, as from 1st September 2013

- Schools are no longer allowed to authorise leave of absence for family holidays.
- Removing your child from school to take a family holiday will be recorded as **unauthorised** and referred to the Local Authority.
- This may result in a penalty notice being issued to the Parents of the child. The penalty is £60 if paid within 21 days or £120 if paid within 28 days.
- Penalty notices are issued to **each** parent, for each child.

Examples of Authorised Absence

- genuine illness of a pupil
- hospital/dental/doctor's appointment for the pupil
- major religious observances
- visits to prospective new schools
- external exams or educational assessments

Examples of Unauthorised Absences

- shopping/day trip/visit to a theme park
- a birthday treat
- oversleeping due to late night
- appointments for other family members
- family holiday

I hope that this clarifies the new regulations which all schools must enforce from September. The Governors of St Mary's School have adopted this policy and it will be reviewed annually.