

We recognise that it is expensive to have holidays during school breaks and that some parents may ask for term time leave for their children. However, cost pressures **CANNOT** be used as a valid and permitted exceptional circumstance.

There are only 190 days each year where children MUST, by law, be in school. There are 175 days of breaks and weekends every year.

It is important that parents carefully consider the implications of taking their child out of school during term time. Absence at any stage of your child's education leads to gaps in your child's learning. This in turn can:

- mean that they fall behind in work
- affect their motivation
- affect their enjoyment of learning
- lead to poor behaviour
- affect their confidence in school
- mean they miss out on the social life of school and extra-curricular opportunities and experiences
- affect their ability to have or keep friendships
- a child who is absent for one day of school per week misses an equivalent of two years of their school life.
- 90% of young people with absence rates below 85% fail to achieve five or more good grades of GCSE and around one third achieve no GCSEs at all.

If you would like to talk to someone about your child's attendance, then please contact Mrs Marsh on 01604 842958.

Term Time Absence

Information for Parents and Carers



Sunnyside Primary Academy
Reynard Way
Northampton
NN2 8QS

Tel: 01604 842958

Email: admin@sunnysideprimaryacademy.org

Attendance - the law

The law says that parents DO NOT have the right to take their children out of school during term time for holidays; this legislation was introduced from 1st September 2013. Any term time absence can only be granted in **exceptional circumstances**.

When term time absence is requested, headteachers must consider:

- the **exceptional** circumstances;
- the overall attendance pattern of the child;
- the stage of the child's education and progress and the effects of the requested absence on both elements;
- whether the absence falls in an examination period;
- whether the same trip could be taken during the 13 weeks per year that the school is closed to pupils.

Headteachers are not expected to class any term time holiday as exceptional as there are 13 holiday weeks per year when the school is closed to pupils when holiday can be taken.

If you take holiday or leave without the school's permission or if a child fails to return on the agreed date this will be recorded as unauthorised absence on the child's attendance record.

Penalty Notices

Penalty notices after a child has been absent due to taking unauthorised holiday, or if there are periods of unexplained and unaccounted for prolonged or repeated absence and are processed by the Local Authority. Initial penalty fines are currently £60 per parent per child. If the fine is not paid within 21 days, this increases to £120 per parent per child. Failure to pay the £120 fine within the period 22 to 28 days may lead to court proceedings.

Our attendance procedures



**Our whole Academy
attendance target is**

98%

At Sunnyside Primary Academy we monitor attendance every week.

Where a pupil's attendance is causing concern, we:

- send a text or phone home on every day of absence;
- send letters highlighting that attendance is an issue and arrange appointments to meet with parents;
- set up parent contracts with attendance targets;
- make referrals to the Local Authority Education Entitlement Team;
- make referrals to the Local Authority Education Entitlement Team to issue penalty notices (fines).

Our aim is to work in partnership with parents and children to ensure that attendance improves.