

20th September 2013

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO SCHOOL ATTENDANCE - SEPTEMBER 2013

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Airedale Learning Community (ALC) Schools would like to update you on the new arrangements for applying for leave of absence from school, which came into effect on the 1st. September 2013.

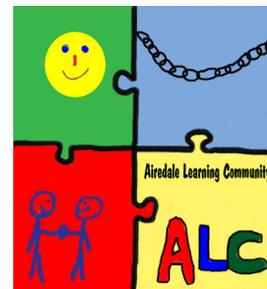
Pupils attend school for a maximum of 190 days each academic year. Full attendance is vital for your child's educational progress. Bradford Council expects all parents/guardians to ensure that their children attend school whenever possible. Absences due to holidays, taken during term time can seriously impact on a pupil's academic attainment. Amendments made to Education (Pupil Registration ((England) Regulations 2006 remove references to family holiday and extended leave, as well as the statutory threshold of ten school days. The amendments make it clear that headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. This does not include holidays. Headteachers should determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if the leave is granted.

Each parent who fails to ensure their children's regular attendance at school may have to pay a Penalty Fine of £60 (per parent, per child, per week) issued by Bradford Council, if they pay within 21 days; or £120 if they pay within 28 days.

The Governing Bodies of ALC Schools will not authorise any holidays in term time. Leave of absence will only be granted if there are exceptional circumstances. Such circumstances will be determined by the School's Senior Leadership Team and a member of the Governing body. Each case will be dealt with on an individual basis.

Governors realise that this change in the law may, initially, cause some upset and difficulties to some families. We believe that by making these arrangements, parents will eventually adapt to the fact that, from 1st. September 2013, schools can no longer authorise any holidays in term time.

On behalf of the Airedale Learning Community Headteachers



**Airedale
Learning
Community**



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