



For Further Information Please Contact The School:

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# St Edmund's Catholic School



## Frequently Asked Questions a guide for parents

### Term-time Holidays Lateness to School Overt Truancy

**Q** Ski holidays / Florida / flights / newspaper special offers are much cheaper at this time. We cannot afford the full price. Why won't the school recognise financial pressures like this?

**A** We recognise financial pressure, but do not see this as a reason to damage a pupil's education. No exception will be made for that reason.

**Q** I am self-employed and have to take holidays when business is slack. Surely the school can put together a pack of work for my child, if I agree to see that he / she does a bit each day while on holiday?

**A** The school will not instruct teachers to provide work in these circumstances, though individuals may choose to do so. Packs of work do not compensate for the elements of the curriculum that will be missed for the holiday.

**Q** My employer determines when I may take leave. Family holidays are important. Surely the school should recognise this and authorize such holidays?

**A** Your child's education is important to us. We recognise some difficult situations need to be overcome, but the assumption is that you try to avoid term time. If you do not, the absence will be recorded as unauthorized.

**Q** My partner and I are separated. He / she has booked this holiday without asking me. The holiday has been booked by partner, without discussion with me. Please inform my partner that this is unauthorised.

**A** If the children are in your care, then you have to make the decision. You need to know the absence will be unauthorized if the holiday is taken.

**Q** I work in the armed services and will be home on leave for "X" weeks only. Time with my children and family is vital. Do you not recognise this?

**A** Exceptional circumstances are recognised, but service leave allowances do not normally create such problems. The leave will be recorded as unauthorized, unless you present clear evidence to the school to prove otherwise.

**Q** Why didn't anyone tell me the dates of his / her Key Stage 3 tests / GCSE examinations before I booked the holiday?

**A** Those dates are published in the weekly newsletters and on the school website [www.saintedmunds.org.uk](http://www.saintedmunds.org.uk) in plenty of time. All term time holiday should be avoided and it was open to you to check before booking.

**Q** Our family has a wedding anniversary / relative's wedding abroad. They did not think when booking the trip and have paid in full. Can you not make an exception?

**A** The policy of the school is clear, oversight by family members will not be regarded as a reason to change the policy.

**Q** Will I receive a fine if I go ahead and take my child on holiday without the school's permission?

**A** All holidays taken without granted permission will be recorded as unauthorized absence and reported as such on your child's end of year report. Other penalties will be decided by the Headteacher, with the support of the Governors. If a holiday is likely to cause a child to miss national tests at Key Stage 3, modular tests, year exam or notified assessed work at Key Stage 4, then a fixed penalty is likely to be imposed. The school will not authorise any holidays during Key Stage 4.

If a parent takes the child out of school for holidays during term time on two or more occasions across Years 9, 10 and 11, then a fixed penalty is likely to be imposed.

**Q** My child "forgets" to register with his / her Tutor or at the Office. What will happen?

**A** He / she will be marked as unauthorized absence and you may receive a fixed penalty.

**Q** What will happen if my child is persistently late for School? i.e. after the registers have closed.

**A** He / she will be marked as unauthorized absence and you may receive a fixed penalty.

**Q** My child overtly truants from school, surely the school cannot blame me?

**A** Your child must register and remain on site. This is an essential health and safety issue. Truancy places your child at risk and you may receive a fixed penalty. When your child is not in school he / she is deemed to be the responsibility of the parent.