

The views of parents and teachers have been considered in the compilation of this leaflet

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This leaflet incorporates information published by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES)

Social Inclusion: Pupil Support, Circular 10/99

If you would like to discuss this matter in detail, please speak to the Head Teacher at your child's school

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or contact

**Wigan Council
Education Welfare Service**

Tel: 01942 749910

**HOLIDAYS
IN
TERM-TIME**

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**Information
For
Parents**
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Building the future together

Acknowledgement in the production of this leaflet is given to Kirklees Council Education Department

TERM - TIME HOLIDAY

THE FACTS

We recognise that it is often expensive to take a holiday during school breaks, and that is why some parents may ask for leave during school term-time for their child. However, it is important that parents carefully consider the implications of taking their child out of school during term-time.

Research suggests that children who are taken out of school may not be able to 'catch up' on course work that they have missed. This may affect test results and can be particularly harmful if the child is studying for final year exams.

Children who normally struggle with English or Mathematics may find it even more difficult when they return, while younger children may experience difficulties renewing friendships with their class mates.

TERM - TIME HOLIDAY

THE LAW

The law states that parents do not have the right to take their child out of school, for holidays, during term-time.

In exceptional circumstances however, the Head Teacher can authorise a period of leave up to ten days in any one school year.

If a child then stays away from school after this authorised period, the school register may be marked as an unauthorised absence. This will remain on the child's record.

The school may also decide to remove the child from its roll unless there is justifiable reason for the continued absence. In cases of continued absence, the parent of the child must inform the school at the earliest opportunity.

TERM - TIME HOLIDAY

THE DECISION

In making the decision whether to grant term-time leave for a child, consideration is given to:-

- The age of the child
- The duration of the leave
- The child's attendance record
- The child's ability
- Previous term-time leave

There are times during a school year when a child may experience particular problems if leave is taken in term-time, such as:-

- exams or tests
eg. Standard Attainment Tests (SATS) in years two, six and nine
- during GCSE courses (or equivalent)
- during the first year at a new school
- at the beginning of a new term

If, as previously stated, the school denies a request for term-time leave, yet the child is taken out of school regardless, this may be recorded as an 'unauthorised absence' and could result in the matter being referred to the Education Welfare Service.