

Authorised and Unauthorised Absences

What is an authorised absence?

The Department for Education tells schools that they can authorise absences for:

- genuine illness
- important hospital, doctor or dentist appointments (if they cannot be made after school)
- *some* family holidays which *genuinely* cannot be taken out of term time, **AND ONLY WITH THE HEADTEACHER'S PERMISSION**
- days of religious observance

AT BROADGREEN WE NEED THE HELP OF PARENTS TO CUT DOWN ON UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE

What is an unauthorised absence?

You should not keep your child from school

- to look after the house or other members of the family
- to go shopping
- to visit relatives
- because it is their birthday
- because it is raining
- because *you* got up late
- because *they* got up late
- because they don't want to go
- because you don't feel like taking them
- waiting in for trades people (e.g. gas, electric)
- truantiing

*We will **not** authorise absences if your child is off for any of these reasons and you should be aware that this could lead to parents being prosecuted by the Local Authority.*

Holidays

Broadgreen International School expects that holidays will **not** to be taken in term time and therefore **permission to take your child out of school from the Headteacher will not normally be given**. This is because at secondary level students are in a continuous cycle of assessments and examinations, and any absence has a profoundly negative effect on this.

Research shows that attendance below 95% has a detrimental effect on GCSE grades. An attendance level of 90% can result in the loss of a whole grade at GCSE!

It is vitally important that your child establishes an attendance level of over 95% in Year 7 and continues this throughout secondary school in order to get the best out of school and to

increase future life prospects. Please try to encourage your child to aim for full attendance. Rewards are given to those pupils who meet the school's expectations on attendance.

Regardless of the effort your child may put in after a holiday to catch up on work, aspects of oral and practical work make this impossible. Broadgreen wants to do the best for your child and we aim to work in partnership with you. The school hopes that you will be able to arrange holidays during the 13 weeks of school closure. If this is genuinely unavoidable parents/carers are asked to write to me well in advance of the holiday with the details.