

Every School Day Matters

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Whitmore Park Primary School

THE LAW

Children of school age registered at a school, must by law attend school regularly.

Parents **DO NOT** have any right or entitlement to take a child out of school for the purpose of a term time holiday. In exceptional circumstances a Head Teacher may authorise a request for a period of leave of up to 10 days in any one school year.

Taking leave without permission from the Head Teacher will result in the issue of a **FIXED PENALTY NOTICE** that will lead to a fine of £60 per parent per child.

In some instances children who take leave in term time could risk losing their school place.

Encourage Your Child's Attendance

For more information contact your child's school or alternatively you can contact: -

Children & Families First Service
North West Neighbourhood
Coundon Neighbourhood Centre
82 Moseley Ave
Coventry
CV6 1AB

Telephone: (024) 76786879

Your child's education is too important to take exceptional leave in term time.

Revised on 26/04/16

EXCEPTIONAL LEAVE IN TERM TIME

**Your child's education
is priceless!**

Coventry Education Authority and Whitmore Park Primary School do not support holidays in school time.

There are **190** statutory days in one school year; this leaves **175** days every year out of school time available for holidays.

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PARENTS

Consequences of taking your child out of school during term time:

- Missing out on valuable school work/ social interaction
- Loss of learning opportunities if close to tests E.g. SATS
- Settling in problems during the first term/year of a new school
- Disruption in friendship groups
- Difficulties a child may face due to having to ask for extra help to catch up
- Your child may never catch up on school missed
- Your child may return from a holiday to find that they no longer have a school place

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The Law requires that pupils must attend their school regularly.

Before taking a child out of school on exceptional leave please consider the following:

- Request an exceptional leave form before taking your child out of school
- The parent/carer with whom the child lives should complete a request for exceptional leave in term time form as soon as possible and return to school.
- A decision from school will be given within 7 days - You may be required to attend a formal interview with the Head Teacher.

The government recommendation is that the school attendance of every child should be 96% or above, if they are to achieve their potential.

Children who take 10 days leave during term time can only achieve a maximum attendance of 94.7% even if there are no other absences

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IS YOUR CHILD MISSING OUT!

Before permission is granted to authorise exceptional leave in term time the Head Teacher must consider carefully:

- **The child's overall attendance pattern**
- **Any leave already taken in the school year**
- **The reason for taking time off during term time**
- **The child's stage of education**
- **Time and duration of the leave**
- **The ability of the child to catch up on the work they have missed**
- **Closeness to SATS and other assessments and tests**
- **Whether the leave is in the child's best interest.**