

Request for leave during term time

To: The head teacher of Woodhouse Academy

Date:.....

I request a leave of absence from school during term time for:

my child (full name):..... Form:.....DOB:.....

Address:.....

for the period from (date): to (date)inclusive.

Total Number of School Days Taken (Excluding Weekends, Bank Holidays, Inset Days)

The **exceptional** circumstances and reason for this request are: -

.....

I have (an)other child(ren) in (an)other school(s) as follows

Child(ren) (full name(s) School(s) attended:

.....

.....

(Signature of 1st parent*/carer(s) Print Name.....

(Signature of 2nd parent*/carer(s) Print Name.....

* Generally, the DfE states that parents include all those with day-to-day responsibility for a child.

Please return completed form to the school office. The school will write to you and inform you of the decision on whether the request is authorised or not.

For Office Use Only

Current Attendance %:

Number of absent school sessions taken as leave during term (this academic year):

Agreed / Not Agreed

Request for leave is agreed/is not agreed for the above student to take leave during term time between the above dates.

Rationale to decline request:

SignedPrincipal. Date

Date Letter Sent: On Arbor Planned Absence: Added to Sheet:

Guidance Notes for Parents* requesting Leave in Term Time

1. Parents* who want the school to consider granting leave of absence in school term time should read these notes carefully, **complete the attached form and send it to the head teacher**. This form should be sent to the school in time for the request to be considered **well before** the desired period of absence. Parents* are strongly advised not to finalise any booking arrangements before receiving the school's decision regarding their request. Head teachers cannot authorise any leave of absence unless the request is received before the period of absence begins.
2. The Department for Education makes it clear that head teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are **exceptional circumstances**. Head teachers now also determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if the leave is granted.
3. There is no automatic right to any leave in term time.
4. Staffordshire County Council understands the challenges that some parents* face when booking holidays particularly during school holidays. However, we believe that, in order to ensure children, receive the best education and prospects, that they should be in school during term time.
5. Each case will be considered individually and on its own merits. Parents* need, therefore, to consider very carefully before making any request for leave of absence. In considering a request, the school will take account of: -
 - the **exceptional** circumstances stated that have given rise to the request
 - the stage of the child's education and progress and the effects of the requested absence on both elements
 - frequency of similar requests
 - whether the parent* made the request in advance
 - students/pupils on examination courses or due to take SATS will **not** normally be granted leave of absence.
6. Where parents* have children in more than one school a separate request must be made to each school. The head teacher of each school will make their own decision based on the factors relating to the child at their school. However, head teachers may choose to liaise with each other as part of their decision-making process.
7. Should the school decide to grant leave of absence, but the child **does not return to school at the time they were expected to** (i.e., following the expiry of the granted leave of absence period) and no information is available to the school to explain/justify the continuing absence this absence will be recorded as unauthorised.
8. For a First offence the Penalty Notice fine would be: -
£80 per parent*, per child if paid within 21 days, rising to
£160 per parent*, per child if paid between 21-28 days.

For a Second offence within 3-years of the first penalty notice being issued, the penalty notice fine would be: £160 per parent*, per child if paid between 28 days.

Following the second offence every new offence within the 3-year period, will be prosecuted under S444.1 of the Education Act 1996. I must advise you that if the prosecution takes place, the maximum fine is £1,000 per parent*, per child. This reflects the seriousness of unauthorised absence from school.

9. The Local Authority will continue to monitor all school absences during term time and support head teachers in challenging parents* who ignore the law.

* Generally, the DfE states that parents include all those with day-to-day responsibility for a child.