

Taking Holidays in Term Time

17 days
absent
a year

=

Drop a
GCSE
grade in all
subjects



GIVE YOUR CHILD A BETTER FUTURE

GIVE ATTENDANCE  100% 

Cardiff Education Welfare Service

www.cardiff.gov.uk/giveattendance100percent



A week away from school won't hurt will it!?

Your children just get one chance at school, one chance for a successful career and one chance to make their future a positive one. If you are a parent or a carer then it is your responsibility that they don't miss out on these opportunities.

Good school attendance is crucial to give your child the best chance of success and develop skills for life. Taking holidays in term time, particularly at critical times such as during exams or at the start of a new school year, can seriously disrupt your child's education.

Cardiff Council has now asked Headteachers not to authorise requests for a holiday in term-time. There is no right that enables parents and carers to take a child out of school for a term-time holiday.

Cardiff Council's extended holiday policy has now been withdrawn and we ask families to make arrangements to take these in the 6 week break in July and August in order to help schools to support your child in achieving success.

It is unacceptable and unauthorised to take your child out of school for the following reasons:

- To look after brothers or sisters
- Shopping trips
- Days off for birthdays
- To visit relatives
- Sleeping in
- Arriving late for school
- Minding the house
- To go on day trips or holidays

The Law

Children of school-age who are registered at a school must, by law, attend that school regularly. Regular attendance is important, not just because the law requires it but also because it is the best way of ensuring children make the most of the educational opportunities available to them.

The regulations make it clear that parents do not have any right or entitlement to take a child out of school for the purposes of a term-time holiday.

The Facts

- There are 190 statutory days in one school year; this leaves 175 days every year out of school time available for holidays.
- We do recognise that it can be expensive to take a holiday during school breaks and this is one of the reasons why some parents may ask for term-time leave for their child.
- Research suggests that children who are taken out of school may never catch up on important work they have missed. In fact just 17 days of school missed can lead to a drop of a GCSE grade across all subjects.
- If your child is already having difficulties in school or is struggling with English or Maths, they may find it even harder to cope when they return to school, while younger children may find it difficult to renew friendships with their classmates.
- Missing time during the first year at a new school or the beginning of a term can also lead to problems, for example: settling into routines, knowing what to bring to lessons, timetable mix-ups and making new friends.
- In some instances children who take holidays in term time could risk losing their school place and this could result in you having to apply to a different school for your child.

Holidays in school
time may be less
expensive...
**BUT your child's
education is
PRICELESS!**

What can you do as a parent or carer?

- Avoid making a request for a family holiday during term time.
- Families are requested to make arrangements to take holidays in the 6 week break in July and August in order to help schools to support your child in achieving success.

It is important to remember that by taking your child out of school during term time you may be giving him/her an unspoken message that school is not important. It's also worth remembering that some children find it difficult to renew friendships with other children when they return to school after a period of absence.

If you still choose to go, there is a risk that your child may be removed from the school register, which would mean that your child would no longer have a place at their school.

On your return you will have to reapply for a different school place, by contacting School Admissions Team, at County Hall but please note that there is no guarantee that a place will be available for your child at their original school on your return.

Give your child a better future. Give Attendance 100%.

Contact us

You can contact Cardiff Education Welfare Service in the following ways:

- call: 029 2062 9800
- e-mail: ewsreferrals@cardiff.gov.uk
- write: EWS, The Mynachdy Centre, Cefn Road, Cardiff CF14 3HS
- or visit our website www.cardiff.gov.uk/giveattendance100percent