

THE PIGGOTT SCHOOL HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME



PLEASE RETAIN

There is a continuing concern, both locally and nationally, about the number of school absences linked to term time holiday. Although our school achieves excellent results and enjoys a very positive reputation, we still suffer from term time holiday absences.

The law says that it is illegal for any student to be absent for a holiday in term time. Each application has to be considered individually by the school, taking into account factors such as the timing of the holiday and the child's attendance and performance record. Holiday absences are only authorised in exceptional circumstances. Any possible absences must always be discussed with us as early as possible and before any bookings are made.

It is easy to underestimate the impact of a few days away from school on a regular basis. A 90% attendance rate over a child's time at school (on average just 19 days' absence each year) would mean that by the end of Year 11 the equivalent of over a school year will have been missed. There is also much statistical evidence showing the detrimental effect absences can have on test and examination results. On average 17 absences during a school year results in one less grade for a GCSE.

Attendance: It is illegal for any student to be absent for a holiday in term time. There is no longer any entitlement to absence for this purpose except in extreme circumstances and I ask all parents to be aware of this and to work with us to ensure high attendance at school. Penalty notices may have to be enforced if absence has been taken without appropriate authorisation from a senior member of staff at school. Any possible absences other than illness must always be discussed with us as early as possible and **before** any bookings are made.

Kevin Brennan, a previous Schools Minister, said that parents and carers needed to understand that even a couple of days off during the term can have a negative impact on their child's progress, "While it's fair that Heads should have the discretion to allow parents holidays in **exceptional** circumstances, schools should not tolerate instances where parents wilfully take their child out of school without authorisation".

The Educational Welfare Service assists the school in monitoring the attendance of all students and will initiate formal procedures where necessary. Parents and carers are reminded that Penalty Notices may be enforced in cases where students are either absent from school without authorisation or when an absence is linked to a holiday application that has been turned down.

Penalty notice information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence/legal-action-to-enforce-school-attendance> and scroll down to penalty notice.