

Children, Families & Adults Services

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DATE: 26 June 2013 OUR REF: AG/MC

Dear Parent/Carer

The Department for Education (DfE) has announced important amendments to legislation surrounding holidays in term time.

From the 1st September 2013, **the new legislation does not give any entitlement to parents to take their child on holiday during term time.** Any application for leave of absence must be in exceptional circumstances and the Head Teacher must be satisfied that the circumstances warrant the granting of leave of absence. Parents can be fined by the Local Authority for taking their child on holiday during term time without consent from the school.

In the academic year 2011 to 2012, **9.7% of absences in England were due to parents/carers taking their children out of school during term time.** This high level of absence has led the DfE to make this important change of legislation.

As a Local Authority, we fully appreciate the financial difficulties that some parents face when booking holidays, particularly during school holidays however, we are expecting that all schools in the borough introduce firm policies and stringent checks to ensure that there is a significant reduction in the number of absences being authorised by schools during term time. The Local Authority will be monitoring all school absences during term time and challenging those schools and parents that do not adhere to the new legislation.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Local Authority and your child's school to thank you for your full support in this matter by not taking your child out of school during term time.

This new legislation will bring about increased attendance and improve standards in the borough's schools.

Further information can be obtained from

www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/attendance/a00223868/r

Yours sincerely

Anne Gadsden.

A handwritten flourish consisting of a horizontal line with a small vertical tick in the center, extending slightly above and below the line.

Anne Gadsden
Monitoring & Intervention Manager