

Absence from School

This form should be handed in to the main reception for the attention of attendance staff at least 7 days prior to the absence.

Taking your son/daughter out of school during term time may harm his/her academic progress.

Following a change in Department for Education regulations from September 2013 schools may only authorise absence in exceptional circumstances. These include:

- **family emergency**
- **funeral of a close family member (please state relationship to you)**
- **wedding of a close family member (please state relationship to you)**

Holidays will **not** count as a reason to authorise absence in term time, with the exception of children of armed forces personnel on leave from active service (when confirmation from a commanding officer will be required).

Circumstances which are notified to the school or Local Authority **after** a decision has been made by the Headteacher will not be considered. Therefore please be certain to provide details of the exceptional circumstances relating to your application below and attach any supporting evidence.

Please read the attached Local Authority leaflet which explains Penalty Notices issued for unauthorised holidays during term time.

Date of application:					
Student's Name:				Year	Tutor GP
Student's School:					
Full name of Parent(s) making application in Block Capitals		Title	Forename	Surname	
Full address of applicant					
Post Code:					

PLEASE COMPLETE SEPARATE FORMS FOR EACH STUDENT AT THIS SCHOOL

Names of sibling(s) at another school requesting the same absence		Name of school	
Date of first day of Absence		Date of last day of Absence	
Date of return to school		Total number of days requested	
Reason for absence to be taken during term time:			
Parent/Guardian signature		Date	

For School Use			
No. sessions H code		No. sessions G code	
% last year's attendance		Total no. unauthorised absence in previous 6 months	
% current attendance to date		Total unauthorised absence this year	

- We have noted the dates when your son/daughter will be absent from school. We are **able to authorise** the absence in this case.
- We are **unable to authorise** your request for student absence because it does not meet the criteria for "exceptional circumstance".

Yours sincerely

Headteacher

Dated:.....

Date form returned to parent:	Noted by class teacher/tutor:
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Christ Church CE VC Primary School



Churchfields The Village School



Fitzmaurice Primary School



St Laurence School



Westwood with Iford School



Winsley Primary School

PUPIL LEAVE OF ABSENCE IN TERM TIME

Important notice to all parents and carers

The Local Authority has amended its Local Code of Conduct in respect of Penalty Notices issued for truancy to include unauthorised pupil leave of absence in term time. If a pupil accumulates 10 or more sessions of unauthorised leave of absence within the previous 6 month period of a current academic year, the school must notify the Local Authority and a Penalty Notice will be issued to each parent for each child where that applies.

A penalty of £60 will apply if paid within 21 days or £120 up to 28 days. If after 28 days the penalty has not been paid, legal proceedings will be taken through the magistrates court for the unauthorised absence.

What are s444A and s444B of the Education Act 1996?

Section 444A and section 444B of the Education Act 1996 give powers to the Local Authority (LA) to issue Penalty Notices where the parent/carer is considered capable of but unwilling to secure an improvement in their child's school attendance.

Why are these powers available?

Reducing absence from school is a key priority at both national and local level. Missing school reduces a pupil's educational attainment and life chances.

What is a Penalty Notice?

A Penalty Notice is an alternative to prosecution and is used to try and secure an improvement in a pupil's school attendance without the need to appear in Court. As long as the penalty is paid the Penalty Notice enables parents or carers to discharge their potential liability for prosecution for the period covered by the Penalty Notice.

What are the costs?

Payment of £120 is required within 28 days of receipt of the Penalty Notice; this sum is reduced to £60 if paid within 21 days. If the penalty is not paid in full within 28 days the LA is required to commence proceedings in the Magistrates' Court for the original offence of your child's poor school attendance. If you plead guilty or are found guilty the Courts have a wider range of options which could include a maximum fine of £1000. In addition a Parenting Order could be imposed.

Penalty Notices are issued to each parent for each child and payment is required for each Penalty Notice issued.

Who issues them?

The Local Authority through the Education Welfare Service.

How are they issued?

By post to your home.

Can I be prosecuted if I pay the penalty but my child is still missing school?

Yes. You will not be prosecuted for the period included in the Penalty Notice – payment discharges your liability in this respect. However, legal proceedings might be considered for further periods of poor attendance not covered by the Penalty Notice, depending upon the circumstances.

When are they issued for unauthorised Leave of Absence

Penalty Notices are issued for absence taken during term time where the leave of absence has not been authorised by the school or an absence has not been requested in advance and pupil will have had a minimum of 10 sessions (5 school days) lost to unauthorised leave of absence during the previous six months up to and including the day the Education Welfare Service is notified.

What is unauthorised Leave of Absence?

- A parent has made a request for leave of absence in term time and this has not been agreed by the school;
- A parent has not applied for leave of absence in advance of the absence (the regulations do not allow retrospective approval); or
- If the parents keep the child away from school for longer than was agreed, the extra time is recorded as unauthorised

When can Leave of Absence be authorised?

Amendments made to the 2006 regulations in the **Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013** make clear that headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are **exceptional** circumstances.

Why have I received this leaflet?

This leaflet is sent to parents in Wiltshire to inform them of the extended use of Penalty Notices for unauthorised leave of absence or for parents who have requested leave of absence during term time.

If the leave of absence you have requested is not agreed by the school and your child's total unauthorised leave of absence amounts to 10 or more sessions (5 school days), continuous or aggregated within the previous six months within the current academic year the Education Welfare Service will be notified. The six months includes all unauthorised leave of absence up to the day the Education Welfare Service is notified.

Following this notification from a school that a parental request for a leave of absence in term time has not been authorised and the leave of absence is taken the Local Authority will issue a Penalty Notice to each parent for each child.

What can I do now?

If the leave of absence that you have requested is not authorised you are advised not to take your child out of school.

Who can I discuss this with?

In the first instance talk to your child's school; otherwise the Penalty Notice Officer can be contacted on:

Tel: 01722 438123 Email: PNLO@wiltshire.gov.uk

PENALTY NOTICES FOR UNAUTHORISED LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

(PREVIOUSLY CALLED HOLIDAY ABSENCE)

**s444A and s444B Education Act 1996
&
The Education (Pupil Registration) (England)
Regulations 2006**

Information for Parents and Carers

September 2017