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Dear Parents/Guardians,

### **AMENDMENTS TO SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REGULATIONS**

I need to bring to your attention to amendments that have been made by the Secretary of State to the 2006 regulations in the **Education(Pupil Registration)(England)(Amendment) Regulations 2013**. These amendments, as described below, came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013.

**This means that no holidays will be authorised during term time unless the reasons are considered 'exceptional'. Family holidays, birthdays, anniversaries, weddings or holidays due to work commitments will not be considered as 'exceptional circumstances', and therefore will not be authorised.**

#### **Term-time holiday**

The **Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006** currently allow Headteachers to grant leave of absence for the purpose of a family holiday during term time in 'special circumstances' of up to ten school days leave per year. Headteachers can also grant extended leave for more than ten school days in exceptional circumstances.

Amendments to the 2006 regulations **remove** references to family holiday and extended leave as well as the statutory threshold of ten school days. The amendments make clear that Headteachers may **not** grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

#### **The Education (Penalty Notices) (England) Regulations 2007**

Amendments have been made to the 2007 Regulations in the Education (Penalty Notices) (England) (Amendment) Regulation 2013. These amendments, as described below, came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013.

The 2007 regulations set out the procedures for issuing penalty notices (fines) to each parent who fails to ensure their child's/children's regular attendance at school or fails to ensure that their excluded child is not in a public place during the first five days of exclusion. Parents must pay £60 if they pay within 28 days; or £120 if they pay within 42 days.

Amendments to the 2007 regulations will reduce the timescales for paying a penalty notice. Parents, from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013, pay £60 within 21 days or £120 within 28 days. This brings attendance penalty notices into line with other types of penalty notices and allows local authorities to act faster on prosecutions. Every application will be individually considered.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours in partnership.

Mrs J B Hirst  
Headteacher

## **Holidays during Term Time**

**Every school day counts towards your child's future.**

Days off school add up to a loss of learning.

In total there are 175 non-school days a year. This gives families the opportunity to:

- Spend time together
- Go on family visits
- Go on holiday
- Go on days out
- Attend routine appointments

The law says that parents do not have the right to take their child out of school for holidays during term time. If you take your child on holiday during term time it will be recorded as an unauthorized absence and may result in parents being issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice.

### **Why shouldn't I take my child on holiday during term time?**

Many parents and carers think it is okay to go on holiday during term time; this has a negative effect on their children's learning and ability to achieve. If your child goes on holiday during term time, they are absent.

Absence due to illness or taking holidays results in attendance figures below:

- 10 days absence = 95% attendance
- 19 days absence = 90% attendance
- 29 days absence = 85% attendance
- 38 days absence = 80% attendance
- 47 days absence = 75% attendance

National research shows that children with over 90% attendance are more likely to gain 5 or more A-C GCSE's or equivalent.