

Term Time Holidays

From September 1st 2013, the Education Regulations 2013 changed the rule about term time holidays.

The amendments specify that headteachers may not grant leave of absence during term time unless there are 'exceptional circumstances'. If leave is granted, headteachers should determine the number of days a child can be away from school.

'Exceptional circumstances' have not been defined by the government. It is for the headteacher to decide what she views as exceptional circumstances.

At St. Ignatius, we take attendance at school seriously. Children can only make the best progress if they have full attendance at school. DfE Persistent absence (PA) is now 10%.

If you feel that you wish to take your child out of school due to 'exceptional circumstances', please apply in writing to the headteacher, Mrs Rush, before arrangements are made. Decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis. However, holidays will never be accepted as exceptional circumstances.

It is important that children attend school regularly with an attendance of at least 96% over a year.

Children with poor or persistent absence fail to make good progress in school. Also, they often find it difficult to make friends and may suffer from emotional and/or social difficulties.

We do ask all parents to consider the implications of removing their children unnecessarily from school particularly for holidays.