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# Guide to term-time holidays for parents and carers



North Tyneside Council

# Why school attendance matters

North Tyneside Council wants to make sure that all children reach their potential and we know that you will want to help us make this happen.

We believe that good school attendance is an important part of this. Whilst we know that sometimes absence can't be avoided, you can help by not taking your child out of school for holidays during term-time.

Many parents say that the time their child misses because of a holiday

doesn't affect their school work. However a child who has 10 days holiday each year of their school life will miss 24 weeks (nearly a full school year) of their formal education. This is in addition to unavoidable absences – for instance, if your child is ill.

If you are thinking of booking a term-time holiday, this leaflet contains some important information to guide you; please read it carefully and then contact your child's school for further advice.

## What does the law say?

From September 2013 the law around holidays in term-time changed. The law now makes it clear that a Headteacher cannot agree to a child being absent from school for a holiday unless there are exceptional circumstances.

It is up to you to provide the school with evidence of exceptional circumstances, but only the Headteacher can decide if the reason you have given can be considered exceptional and agree the holiday.

If permission for the holiday is not given by the school's Headteacher and you choose to go anyway, this will be recorded as unauthorised absence (truancy) and could lead to you receiving a fixed penalty fine of £60.00 for each child taken out of school.

## How will the Headteacher decide?

The Headteacher will consider:

- If the reason given for the holiday could be considered 'exceptional'?
- What impact will the absence have on your child's progress in school?
- Your child's current attendance

Details of what could be considered exceptional circumstances can be found on your child's school website; but each case will be decided individually

We know that taking holidays during term-time can be cheaper but we believe that it is generally not in the best interests of your child.



# Good Attendance means...

Being in school at least 97% of the time or 184 to 190 days

## Remember

Education is important - don't miss out!

### Did you know?

A two week holiday in term-time means that the highest attendance a child can achieve is

**94.7%**



There are  
**365 DAYS**  
in a calendar year

**175 DAYS**  
are **NOT**  
spent at school

## Did you know?

When pupils attend school they:

- Can achieve their full potential
- Have better career prospects
- Learn how to look after themselves and be healthy
- Grow in confidence
- Keep up with work and homework
- Make new friends

# When making your decision, please consider...

If the holiday is close to exams or SATS, your child may miss important preparation

Friendships move on, even after a short amount of time

Even a short amount of time out of school can result in your child missing a considerable amount of work

Time off school towards the end of the year will mean your child misses preparation for the new school year and meeting new staff

Work missed whilst on holiday has to be caught up and this could put extra pressure on your child

Time taken by teachers and support staff to help your child catch up is time they cannot spend with other children

Every day in school is important, is taking your child out of school in term time giving the right message?

If you still feel that there are exceptional circumstances to support your request, you must approach the Headteacher before you book the holiday so they can consider your request