

Holiday in Term time FAQ

Q. I have taken my child out of school before for a holiday, why am I being fined now?

A. Our school Attendance Policy states clearly what action will be taken for parents/carers of pupils who take unauthorised absence. Schools within the South York Multi-Academy Trust will now apply the policy consistently for both Primary and Secondary schools. As a result of the covid pandemic school attendance overall has dipped and the Government and our schools within the trust are working hard to promote excellent school attendance.

Q. Why does it matter if I take my child out of Primary school for a holiday?

A. Pupils with good primary school attendance records generally achieve higher grades and enjoy school more. Having a good education will help to give your child the best possible start in life and encourage good habits at secondary school. Regular school attendance patterns encourage the development of other responsible patterns of behaviour.

Q. But I could just say my child is ill and avoid the fine!

A. Honesty is always the best policy in these matters. If a student is absent for 5 days (10 sessions or more) with an illness that is not medically evidenced therefore unauthorised they may be referred to the local authority to issue a penalty notice in the same way.

Q. My line of work means that I cannot take my holiday leave anytime that I want.

A. If you feel that there are exceptional circumstances such as this please ask your employer to submit a letter stating this to the Head Teacher. We cannot guarantee that the absence will then be authorised.

Q. But my child has had good attendance for the rest of the school year?

A. We encourage good attendance all year round, a penalty notice is issued as a result of the unauthorised absence for holiday and does not refer to any other time.

Q. We are a two parent family and we have both received a penalty notice, why are we being penalised like this?

A. A Penalty notice is issued to each person who has parental responsibility for taking the child out of school where the absence is unauthorised.

Q. I have received a penalty notice, how do I appeal?

A. Please contact the local authority who has issued the notice in the first instance.