

**APPLICATION FOR PUPIL LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL DURING TERM TIME**

**Important Information for parents/carers – please read before completing this form**

We expect every pupil's attendance at school to be 100% unless there are exceptional or unavoidable reasons for absence. Parents do not have any legal entitlement to take their child on holiday during term time. It is the Headteacher who decides whether a period of leave during term time will be authorised or not in line with legislation. The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 (amended in September 2013) make it clear that Headteachers cannot grant any leave of absence during term time unless 'exceptional circumstances' exist.

Every request for leave of absence during term time will be reviewed on an individual basis with due consideration of the circumstances but the Headteacher can only grant leave of absence if they consider exceptional circumstances apply. If the exceptional circumstances are agreed, the Headteacher will determine the length of the absence to be authorised.

All requests for leave of absence should be made in advance and before any arrangements are confirmed or money committed. This form must be completed in full by the parent who intends to remove the pupil from school during term time. Failure to make a request for a leave of absence in advance will result in the absence taken being recorded as unauthorised.

**I have read the above information and wish to apply for Leave of Absence from school for:**

Child's full name	Date of birth	Year Group/Form Group

**Parent/Carer details (please list all parents)**

<b>First name</b>		<b>Surname</b>	
<b>Date of birth</b>		<b>Relationship to child</b>	
<b>Address &amp; postcode</b>			
<b>Telephone number</b>			
<b>First name</b>		<b>Surname</b>	
<b>Date of birth</b>		<b>Relationship to child</b>	
<b>Address &amp; postcode</b>			
<b>Telephone number</b>			

**Siblings: please provide the name of any siblings and the school that they attend**

Child's full name	Date of birth	School

Details of the absence			
Date of first day of absence		Date of last day of absence	
Total number of days absent		Expected date of return to school	
Please provide the reason for this request including supporting evidence			
Please read the following statement and sign to indicate you understand			
<p>I would like to request the above absence. I understand that the school strongly advises against taking unnecessary absence during term time and accept that this may have a detrimental impact on my child/ren's progress. I understand that a penalty notice may be issued if this request is denied and my child is absent during this period. I understand that a fine will be payable per child, per parent of £120 if paid within 28 days but reduced to £60 per child, per parent if paid within 21 days.</p>			
Signed		Full name	Date
Signed		Full name	Date

To be completed by the school			
Date request received by the school		Total number of days requested	
Child's Name	Current % Attendance	Application Authorised or Declined	
Reason for school's decision			
Headteacher	Dr R Harris		
Signed		Date	

## Attendance at school and legal intervention

**Where parents decide to have their child registered at school, they have an additional legal duty to ensure their child attends that school regularly.**

[Research](#) commissioned by the Department for Education shows missing school for even a day can mean a child is less likely to achieve good grades, which can have a damaging effect on their life chances. At Taverham High School our aim is to work with parents to ensure that all our pupils receive the most from their education and reach their full potential.

This letter is to remind all parents about the law that requires them to ensure that their child attends school regularly. The Government is very clear that no child should miss school apart from in exceptional circumstances and schools must take steps to reduce absence to support children's attainment.

The DfE policy document entitled, '[Working together to improve school attendance](#)' states:

- Only exceptional circumstances warrant a leave of absence. Schools should consider each application individually taking into account the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind the request.
- If a leave of absence is granted, it is for the headteacher to determine the length of the time the pupil can be away from school.
- As head teachers should only grant leaves of absence in exceptional circumstances it is unlikely a leave of absence will be granted for the purposes of a family holiday.

If the school does not receive a request for leave, the head teacher will be unable to consider your individual circumstances and the absence will be recorded as unauthorised. There will be no obligation on the head teacher to reconsider authorising the leave if an application has not been made in advance.

The Local Authority operates a system where any pupil will meet the criteria for legal intervention if they have **at least 9 sessions (4.5 school days) lost to unauthorised absence by the pupil during 6 school weeks**. The intervention could be in the form of a fixed penalty notice. Any pupil at Taverham High School who meets the criteria, will be referred to the Local Authority for action to be considered.

If a fixed penalty notice is issued, the arrangement for the payment will be detailed on the notice. The penalty is £60 if paid within 21 days of receipt, rising to £120 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days. A parent may receive more than one separate penalty notice resulting from unauthorised absence. When penalty notices are issued each parent will receive one per child. Therefore, each parent could receive multiple notices if they have more than 1 child who has been absent. You should be aware that failure to pay the total amount within the timescale will result in legal action being taken. In some circumstances, the Norfolk County Council Attendance Team may choose not to issue a further penalty notice in the same academic year and may instead choose to prosecute a parent under the Education Act 1996 S444. There is no right of appeal by parents against a fixed penalty notice.