

**Application for Leave of Absence from School during term time.**

**(please include all pages to parents and in response(s) and send the Helping Parents understand Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance Information Sheet)**

**Dear Parent/Carer,**

All schools **by law** must follow the Department for Education’s statutory guidance relating to school attendance. They must use the appropriate national attendance or absence code, and follow the criteria set out within the guidance. The statutory guidance states:

* A leave of absence **must not be granted unless there are exceptional circumstances and must be requested in advance.**
* A leave of absence must be requested **in advance** by a parent who the pupil normally lives with
* Schools must judge **each application individually**, considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind each request.
* Where a leave of absence is granted, **the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school.**
* **A need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance.**
* A school **cannot** grant a leave of absence retrospectively. If the parent did not apply in advance, the leave of absence should not be granted.
* Where this guidance refers to a parent, the school and/or local authority will need to decide which adult(s) is most appropriate. Generally, parents include:
* All natural parents, whether they are married or not.
* All those who have parental responsibility.
* Those who have day to day responsibility for the child.

Please note all schools are expected to regularly inform parents about their child’s attendance and absence.

Taking your child out of school during term time could be detrimental to their educational progress. If the absence is not authorised and the leave is taken, schools may refer to the Local Authority for legal action. Please find attached information regarding Helping Parents understand Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance.

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**Parental Request**

(Please include all pages to parents and in response(s) and send the Helping Parents understand Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance Information Sheet). Schools must follow their own GDPR guidance and safeguarding measures.

**St Mary’s CE High School**

**Lieutenant Ellis Way**

**Cheshunt**

**Herts, EN7 5FB**

Dear Headteacher

I would like to request permission for leave of absence for my child, a pupil registered at your school for the reasons detailed below *(further information can be attached if required).*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Pupil’s full name** |  |
| **Pupil’s Date of Birth** |  |
| **Year Group** |  |
| **Class/Registration** |  |
| **Pupil’s full address and postcode** |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **First date of Absence** |  |
| **Last date of Absence** |  |
| **Date of Return to school** |  |
| **Number of School days absence** |  |

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| --- |
|  Please be aware, as per our school’s attendance policy and the Hertfordshire Published Code of Conduct relating to school attendance, that the law requires parents/carers to seek permission from the headteacher to take their child out of school during term time. The law states **permission can only be granted if**:1. An application has been made in advance by the parent/carer the child normally lives with; and2. There are exceptional circumstancesPlease also note that, if on the rare occasion circumstances are deemed exceptional by the headteacher, the duration your child is permitted to be away from school may only be determined by the headteacher. |

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| **Reason for the request, including why you believe your circumstances to be exceptional** (further details may be attached to this form) |
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| **If you have a child(ren) at another school(s), please detail their name(s) and which school(s) they attend below pupil’s name, name of school and school telephone number** |
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| --- | --- |
| **Full name of person making request****(note requests much be made by the parent/carer who the pupil normally lives with)** |  |
| **Relationship to child** |  |
| **Full address and postcode****(if different from child’s above)** |  |
| **Signature** |  |
| **Date** |  |

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**School Response**

School to complete the below, keeping the originals, returning copies of all pages together with the appropriate letter on Infolink, to all parents.

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| --- | --- |
| **Dear** | Insert parent title, forename and surname |
| **Copy sent to** (send to other parent) | Insert parent title, forename and surname |

**Re: Application for Leave of Absence from School during term time**

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| **Date of response from school** |  |
| **Date of application received by school** |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Pupil’s full name** |  |
| **Pupil’s date of birth** |  |
| **Year group, class, registration** |  |
| **Pupil’s full address and postcode** |  |
| **Pupil’s percentage attendance year to date** |  |
| **Number of sessions absent this academic year (total)** |  |
| **Number of which are authorised** |  |
| **Number of which are unauthorised** |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Has this pupil had any previously recorded unauthorised leave of absence?** |  |
| **Was a Penalty Notice Fine requested as a result?** |  |
| **Are you aware of any Penalty Notice Fines that the parent/carer(s) may have previously received for this pupil and/or a sibling/child for whom they hold parental/ day to day care and responsibility?** |  |

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| **School response to parent(s) request for leave of absence** |
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| --- | --- |
| **Number of requested sessions authorised** |  |
| **Number of requested sessions unauthorised** |  |
| **Date pupil required to return to school** |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Headteacher signature** |  |
| **Headteacher name** |  |
| **Date** |  |