



Somerdale Educate Together Primary School

Application For Leave During Term Time

Article 28: Every child has the right to an education.

The information provided in this application is based on guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) and Bath & North East Somerset Council in relation to holidays and leave in term time. The governing body of the school has authorised the Headteacher to act on its behalf in ensuring that the school fully complies with the requirements.

Application for Holiday or Leave in Term Time

Any application for leave in term time must be submitted at the earliest opportunity and at least 10 days in advance to the Headteacher. Applications received during or after a pupil has been taken on leave during term time cannot be considered and the absence will be unauthorised.

Parents/carer must provide supporting evidence of any exceptional circumstances and why the leave must be taken in term time instead of the school holidays. All applications will be considered carefully, including how the pupil's educational progress could be affected. Where the request for leave involves travelling abroad parents will be asked to produce evidence of the return tickets before leave is approved.

Holidays in Term Time

The guidance from the Department for Education states that applications for pupils to take leave in term time for the purpose of a holiday should not normally be authorised due to the disruption it caused to their education. This position is fully supported by the Local Authority and the governing board of Somerdale Educate Together Primary School.

Any applications for holidays in term time will be refused by the Headteacher unless there is evidence of very exceptional circumstances and of why the leave must be taken in term time instead of in the school holidays.

Leave in Term Time for Other Reason

Request for leave in term time for other reasons can only be agreed in exceptional circumstances and for the shortest period possible. The governing body of the school also expects applications for leave in term time to normally be refused. However, in exceptional circumstances discretion may be appropriate. The number of days approved will take into account the pupil's attendance records of the current and previous years. When considering an application for leave in term time for exceptional circumstances, the Headteacher must be convinced that:

1. The exceptional circumstances are justified by supporting evidence provided by the parents/carers (tickets for travelling will not be considered).
2. The evidence warrants the child being absent from school in term time (does the child have to be absent in term time or could it wait until the school holidays?)

Taking of Unauthorised Leave in Term Time

The school will consider applying for a fixed term Penalty Notice for any parents/carers who choose to take pupils on unauthorised leave in term time. The school may also make a referral to Bath & North East Somerset Council's Attendance Welfare Team.

A Penalty Notice may be served on an individual parent/carer per individual child basis when the child has had 10 sessions (5 days) of unauthorised leave in the last 100 (50 days) possible school sessions. For example, child X has 11 unauthorised absences in the last 100 days. Two parent/carers will receive a penalty notice of £60 each (£120 in total) which will rise to £240 if not paid within 28 days of receipt of the notice. There is no right of appeal.



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Part 1: To be fully completed by the parent/carer.

To be submitted at least 10 days in advance. Applications received during or after a pupil has been taken on leave will not be considered and the absence will be unauthorised. A fixed Penalty Notice will be issued accordingly.

Pupil's name:	Date of Birth		Class:	
Full Address:	Telephone:			
	Mobile:			
	Email:			
Last day of attendance in school:		Date of return to school:		

Please give details of the purpose and exceptional reason(s) for this application. Explain why the leave cannot be taken during school holiday time. Please attach any relevant evidence, and a printout of travelling tickets if going abroad.

Parent/carer signature:		Date	
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Part 2: to be completed by the school

Evidence attached: <input type="checkbox"/> Fully completed form <input type="checkbox"/> Print out of ticket(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Print out of attendance	<p>The Headteacher can only authorise applications of exceptional circumstances that are supported by relevant evidence.</p> <p>Your request for leave of absence from school during term time has been considered and has been:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Authorised (your child must return to school on the stated dates) <input type="checkbox"/> Not Authorised (The school will send you a Stage 2 Unauthorised Absence letter) <input type="checkbox"/> Not Authorised (The school will initiate a fixed penalty fine with B&NES local authority)
Total school days requested	
Number of days Authorised (H)	
Number of days Unauthorised (G)	
No reminders will be sent. It is the parents/carer's responsibility to notify the school of any further changes in circumstances.	

Headteacher's signature		Date	
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Absence will be recorded on the school register as:

Unauthorised absence		
G	Unauthorised holiday	Pupil is on a holiday that was not approved by the school
O	Unauthorised absence	School is not satisfied with the reason(s) for pupil's absence

Code	Definition	Scenario
Authorised absence		
C	Authorised leave of absence	Pupil has been granted a leave of absence due to exceptional circumstances
H	Authorised holiday	Pupil has been allowed to go on holiday due to exceptional circumstances
I	Illness	School has been notified that a pupil will be absent due to illness
R	Religious observance	Pupil is taking part in a day of religious observance
T	Gypsy, Roma and traveller absence	Pupil from a traveller community is travelling, as agreed with the school