



# HURSTHEAD INFANT SCHOOL

*We care, we learn, we belong*

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Dear Parent/Carer

## **Term Time Holidays and Leave of Absence**

I am writing to advise you of a change in the law at a national level in recent years in relation to holidays in term time, and other leave of absence, and how this impacts the school's policy. The changes in our school's policy reflect the changes in the law in line with the advice and policies promoted by Stockport Council, across all the schools in Stockport.

### The Legal Position

Schools are only allowed to authorise leave of absence from school if they are satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances.

The effect of this change means that it is now very unlikely that permission for pupils for leave of absence for holidays will be granted. Schools may also require evidence to be provided before agreeing to authorise any exceptional leave of absence.

### Education Penalty Notices

Parents should be aware that if holidays or other leave of absence are taken during term time without permission they can be issued with Education Penalty Notices by the Local Authority.

Education Penalty Notices (EPNs) are fixed penalty fines issued by Stockport Council. Since the start of the 2024-2025 school year new rules the following rules have applied to EPNs:

- For the first fine issued for after the start of the 24-25 school year, the fine is £80 per parent per child if paid within 21 days, or £160 if paid within 28 days.
- If a second fine is then issued to the same parent for the same child within three years of the first fine it will be for £160.
- Subsequent offences - no further fines can then be issued if two have already been issued to the same parent for the same child within the previous three years (starting with the date of the first fine); instead the parent will be prosecuted by the Local Authority in the Magistrates' Court.

**Please find information below taken from [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) on how attendance may affect outcomes for pupils.**

- Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. Evidence shows that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A Level results.

- Research shows pupils who performed better both at the end of primary and secondary school missed fewer days than those who didn't perform as well.
- The data also shows that in 2019, primary school children in Key Stage 2 who didn't achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths missed on average four more days per school year than those whose performance exceeded the expected standard.
- Similarly, in the same year, secondary school pupils who didn't achieve grade 9 to 4 in English and maths missed on 10 more days on average over the key stage than those who achieved grade 9 to 5 in both English and maths.

### **What are the risks of missing a day of school?**

- Every moment in school counts, and days missed add up quickly. For example, a child in Year 10 who is absent for three days over a half term could miss 15 lessons in total.
- The higher a pupil's attendance, the more they are likely to learn, and the better they are likely to perform in exams and formal assessments.
- Data from 2019 shows that 84% of Key Stage 2 pupils who had 100% attendance achieved the expected standard, compared to 40% of pupils who were persistently absent across the key stage.

### Requests for Leave of Absence

Parents are strongly requested to take holidays during the school holidays. If you wish to request Leave of Absence for any reason, we would ask you to do so by completing a Leave of Absence request in advance of the proposed leave.

Yours faithfully

Karen Grant

Headteacher