

Taking Holidays in Term Time

Please be aware

Although it may seem reasonable to take a term time holiday, since September 2013 the Department for Education has removed the ability from schools to authorise leave of absence for holidays.

Parents **no longer have any legal entitlement** to take their child out of school during the school term and can be fined £120 per child per parent for doing so.

However, provided the child has excellent attendance, if there are exceptional reasons for the holiday which meet the government's new guidelines, the headteacher can grant some leave.

Please note: an application for leave of absence must be made in writing at least one month in advance of the proposed leave. The headteacher must be satisfied that there are **exceptional circumstances** that meet the criteria set by the government in order to grant leave (examples of this may be leave periods for Armed Services personnel).

No student will be granted leave if their attendance was below 90% for the previous academic year or if by agreeing the absence the student's attendance is below 90% for the current academic year.

Attendance during one Year	Number of lessons missed	Number of days absent	Which is approximately weeks absent
95%	54 lessons	9 days	2 weeks
90%	114 lessons	19 days	4 weeks

Furness Academy follows Cumbria County Council's, School Absence Enforcement Policy and parents will receive a penalty fine for taking their child on holiday during term time without authorisation.

A penalty notice fine of £120 per child, per parent. Please note that the fines are per period your child is out of school and they are reduced to £60 if paid within 21 days. If you were to leave the fine unpaid for more than 28 days, you may face court proceedings and possibly subsequent prosecution.