



Caroline Chisholm Cluster
School Attendance Regulations 2024
Request for Absence in Term Time

School attendance regulations changed on 19th August 2024 under **Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024** which revokes and replaces the existing 2006 regulations.

Under current government legislation, the school is unable to allow absence in term for the purpose of a holiday under any circumstances. The regulations do allow the school to continue to authorise absence in “exceptional circumstances”. Please find below a list of examples of allowable absences and those which will now be classed as unauthorised absences.

Allowed absence

- Sickness/illness
- Emergency and planned medical appointments
(Parents are requested to make to make routine appointments outside school hours)
- Hospital scheduled appointments /treatment
- Day/s for specific religious observance
- School is closed due to unforeseen circumstances

Allowed absence in exceptional circumstances (at the discretion of the principal and in advance of the event)

- Family bereavement or close friend bereavement
- Other compassionate grounds
- Family wedding/civil partnership (1 day plus a further 2 days in exceptional circumstances and at the discretion of the Principal)
- Family crisis
- Examinations off site
- Educational Opportunity – Sport & Performance
- Attendance at an event at the request of a public organisation
- Visit to a new school
- Family re-location visit

Absences not allowed under any circumstances

- Family holiday no matter what length
- Family trips
- Leaving school early to travel to an event

All requests for absence due to exceptional circumstances must be made by completing the ‘Request for Absence’ form which can be downloaded from our school website. The Principal will then review each request and decide if it meets the criteria for authorisation. Parents should keep their copy of the authorisation in case they are required to prove their child has authorised absence during term time.

Please be aware that any holiday in term time will be treated as unauthorised and could result in a fine of £80 - £160 per child, per parent, being issued by West Northants County Council. For absence relating to illness, schools may request medical evidence to support the absence.

We hope that parents will understand that schools are bound by the government legislation and make every effort to comply with the attendance regulations.

