**Term-time holiday guidance**

All absence from school affects your child's education. Taking a child on holiday during term time could mean:

* your child missing out on important school work which will be difficult to catch up
* creating more work for your child and the teachers
* it affecting other pupils' learning

The Department for Education (DFE) has announced important amendments to [legislation surrounding holidays in term time](http://www.education.gov.uk/popularquestions/a005551/can-i-take-my-child-on-holiday-in-term-time). https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence

From 1 September 2013, the new law gives no entitlement to parents to take their child on holiday in term time. Any application for leave must only be in exceptional circumstances and the head teacher must be satisfied that the circumstances are exceptional and warrant the granting of leave. Head teachers would not be expected to class any term time holiday as exceptional. Parents can be fined by the local authority for taking their child on holiday during term time without consent from the school.

In the academic year 2011 to 2012, 9.7% of all absences in England were due to parents taking their children out of school during term time. This high level of absence had led the Department of Education to make this important decision.

As a local authority, we fully appreciate the financial difficulties that some parents face when booking holidays, particularly during school holidays. However, we are expecting that all schools in Salford introduce firm policies and stringent checks to ensure that there is a significant reduction in the number of absences being authorised during term time. The local authority will be monitoring all school absences during term time and challenging schools and parents who do not adhere to the new legislation.

This page was last updated on 29 May 2014