



County Hall
Hertford, SG13 8DF
Tel: 01438 737500
Fax: 01992 555719
E Mail: Justin.donovan@hertscc.gov.uk

My ref: JJD/LH/zw
Date:

Dear Parent/Carer

I understand that you have requested that your child is given time away from school in order to take part in a family holiday.

I am writing to support the Governing Body and Headteacher in their attempts to dissuade parents and carers from taking children out of school for other than wholly exceptional or unavoidable circumstances. The Local Authority takes the view that taking children on holiday during term time can be damaging to a child's educational progress for two reasons. Firstly, children find it very difficult to catch up on the learning that they have missed and in the longer term this can have a negative impact on their progress. Secondly and as importantly, children can be given a very unhelpful message about the value and importance of going to school.

Absence from school for family holidays is not a right. Schools have discretion to allow up to 10 days in a school year, only if they believe that the circumstances warrant it. The Pupil Registration Regulations 2006 outline the conditions under which leave of absence for term time holidays may be granted. Regulation 7, states that 'leave of absence should only be granted due to the special circumstances relating to that application'.

As parents and carers you will want the best education for your child. By taking holidays during the designated holiday periods, you will be supporting your child's full school attendance, learning and development.

Yours sincerely

Justin Donovan
Deputy Director (Chief Education Officer)
Children, Schools & Families

