



Campion School

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December 2018

For the attention of the Parent or Carer

Dear Parent or Carer

Pupil Absence During Term Time

Further to my previous letters on requests for pupil absence during term-time, I should like to remind you of the recent decision from the Supreme Court, in the case of Platt v Isle of Wight council, which clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including taking school-age pupils out of school for holidays in term time.

As you will understand, schools are obliged to act within the law and I should like to draw your attention to the notice on the reverse of this letter, which was issued to all schools as a result of the above court ruling. I should be grateful if you could read this information carefully so that you are clear on the legislation and the school's position on this matter.

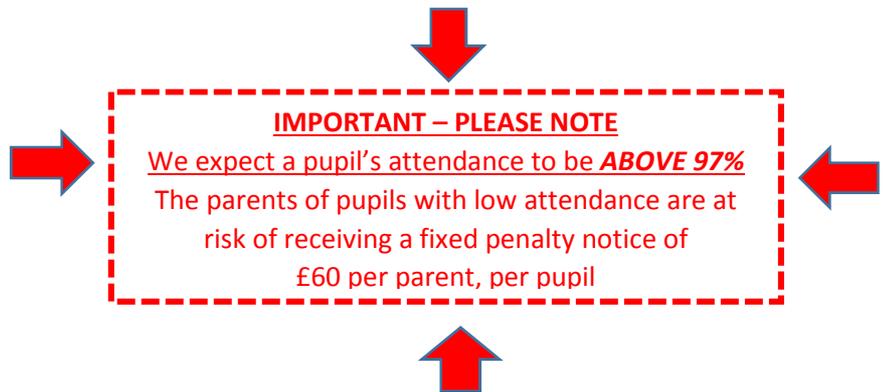
I should like to reiterate that holidays during term time **will not be authorised**.

For more information please see the Campion School website: www.campion.warwickshire.sch.uk

Thank you for your support in this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Student Support Office on 01926 743228.

Yours sincerely

JASSA PANESAR
Headteacher





Leave Of Absence During Term Time (Updated Information for Parents)

The Supreme Court reached a decision in the case of *Platt v Isle of Wight Council*, which clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time, that the parents of children of compulsory school age are required to ensure that their children attend school on a regular basis. The Supreme Court made it clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on each day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child, who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time, are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

Head Teachers retain the ability to authorise leave in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. However, when considering such requests for a leave of absence, the school is obliged to act within the law. Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application. If the leave is granted, Head Teachers are able to determine the number of school days a child can be absent for.

It is for the Head Teacher to decide what is 'exceptional' and it is at their discretion if the circumstances warrant the leave to be granted. The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent.

Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case by case basis and on its own merits.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child will be required to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence, which may result in legal action being taken against the parent(s), by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Failure to make an application for leave in advance can also result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to the parent(s).

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Attendance, Compliance and Enforcement Service (ACE) at Warwickshire County Council.

It is important to note: Fixed Penalty Notices are issued to each parent, of each absent child, (for example two children and two parents, means each parent will receive two invoices for the amount of £120 each, totalling £240 for both children. However, this amount will be reduced to £60 per child if paid within 21 days).

Where a Fixed Penalty Notice is not paid within the required timeframe as set out on the notice, the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal proceedings under S444 Education Act 1996.

Fixed Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices.

Your child's progress academically, as well as socially, is our shared priority