



Holidays During Term Time

New Government Legislation introduced in September 2013 refers to taking Holidays during Term Time. The Government has changed the rules to forbid Headteachers to grant leave of absence. The main changes refer to the term "Special Circumstances" – this no longer applies and only "Exceptional Circumstances" such as a family member funeral can be considered. Ten school days per year has been removed.

New Guidance states:

"Amendments to the 2006 regulations remove references to family holiday and extended leave as well as the statutory threshold of ten school days. The amendments make clear that Headteachers **MAY NOT GRANT** any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Headteachers should determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if the leave is granted".

The other change coming into force is that if a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised Holidays in Term Time, the timescale for paying the fine has changed to "£60 within 21 days or £120 within 28 days".

Applications for family holidays or any other reason other than an exceptional circumstance such as a family member funeral can no longer be approved by law.

M Whittaker
Senior Vice Principal

