

EVERY SCHOOL DAY MATTERS

Any absence from school needs to be avoided wherever possible as it can have a serious effect on a pupil's education and development.

Research has shown pupils who have 17 or more days absence from school during just one academic year can fall behind as much as one National Curriculum level.

Missing 5 days means your child will lose 25 hours of learning which equates to...

- 5 hours of maths
- 5 hours of English
- 10 hours of other lessons e.g. science, history, computing and
- 5 hours of social time

2 weeks holiday = 50 hours learning
and

2 weeks holiday and 1 weeks illness = 75
hours learning!



DARLINGHURST ACADEMY

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**Holidays in school term
time.
Know the facts before
you request leave of
absence.**





Why shouldn't I take my child away during term time?

It is important that children attend school regularly if they are to benefit from the learning opportunities provided. Children who are absent from school due to a holiday in term time will miss out on important learning. Educational experiences in school missed as a result of a family holiday cannot be recaptured later. If your child does not attend school regularly they will not be able to keep up with the work. This will have a serious impact on opportunities later in life.

What does the law say?

There is no longer any entitlement in law for pupils to take time off during the term to go on holiday. The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 have been amended from 1st September 2013. All references to family holidays and extended leave have been removed, together with the right for parents/carers to apply for up to 10 days holiday during term time.

The amendments specify that Headteachers/ Principals may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are 'exceptional circumstances'.

What does Darlington Academy consider to be an exceptional circumstance?

Darlington Academy interprets 'exceptional circumstances' as:

"being of unique and significant emotional, educational or spiritual value to the child which outweighs the loss of teaching time".

How does Darlington Academy consider and deal with requests for absences during term time?

Darlington Academy has an attendance policy, which can be found on the school website. This policy strongly discourages parents from requesting absences during term time.

It is the decision of the Principal as to whether the request constitutes exceptional circumstances and each request will be considered on an individual basis. However, it is important for parents/carers to be aware that while decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis, requests will normally be refused.

Darlington Academy will not agree leave during term-time;

- At any time in September.
- During Year 1, 2 and Year 6 assessment periods set aside each year by the Government for statutory tests.
- When a child's attendance is below 90% in the preceding 12 weeks before the leave was taken.



What happens if the absence is not authorised?

Any leave of absence that has not been authorised may be referred to the Early Help and Intervention Team at the Local Authority for further action. This may result in the issue of a Fixed Penalty Notice or prosecution proceedings.

The Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003 advised parents/carers that a fixed penalty notice can be issued to each parent of each child of statutory school age and carries a maximum penalty of £120. (e.g. 2 parents with 2 children could incur a total cost of £480) if the matter proceeds to court this carries a maximum penalty of £2500 or imprisonment.

