

IMPORTANT

Changes to Term Time Holiday and Absences from School (other than illness)

Amendments have been made to the 2006 regulations in the [Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013](#). These amendments, as described below, will come into force on 1 September 2013

The amendments make clear that headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances

The primary and secondary behaviour and attendance partnerships and the East Riding of Yorkshire Council agree to follow the law, in such that **the provision for Headteachers to authorise absence for the purpose of a family holiday is not an exceptional circumstance.**

Exceptional circumstances:

1. Service personnel returning from a tour of duty abroad where it is evidenced the individual will not be in receipt of any leave in the near future that coincides with school holidays.
2. Where an absence from school is recommended by a health professional as part of a parent or child's rehabilitation from a medical or emotional issue.
3. The death or terminal illness of a person close to the family.
4. To attend a wedding or funeral of a person close to the family.
5. Where there are exceptional and unforeseen circumstances that fall outside of 1 to 4 above, the Headteacher agrees to consult with the principal education welfare officer prior to any authorisation being given to the parent. The principal education welfare officer will discuss each case with an independent Headteacher and will make a recommendation to the referring school.

Evidence would be required in each case.

To put it simply:

There is now no such thing as a term time holiday, it is replaced with "absence from school for exceptional circumstances" as defined above. **This is a significant change and very few requests for absence will be authorised in the future.**

Penalties remain the same:

Fines are issued for unauthorised absence of 5 or more days and each school day is divided into 2 registration periods. **For example if your child is absent for one day this equals 2 sessions and a five day absence is equal to 10 sessions** Each parent within your household will be issued with a £60 penalty notice for each child you have taken out of school.

Note: Each unauthorised absence is added together and if less than 13 weeks apart will result in a fine e.g. 3days+1 day +1 day = penalty