

## ST CHAD'S PATCHWAY CE VC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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### Re: Absence in term time.

Dear Parents and carers,

Due to a very small number of families taking holidays or unauthorised time off in school times, I need to remind you all periodically of the expectations on school attendance, that I know you all work hard to follow. The reason I need to do this is because occasionally people who say "I didn't know that was a school (still national) rule and it's too late as I have booked my holiday" – then unfortunately those families have left themselves open to a fine.

As a school we are bound to review each request individually and if it fulfils exceptional circumstances, then leave may be classed as authorised. However, the following **will not** meet the criteria:

- Relatives coming to visit,
- Cheaper holidays,
- Trips, birthdays, special occasions,
- Visiting family / friends who have different holidays or who live abroad.

If you take your child away from school for a period of 10 sessions or more (2 sessions in a day = one week) and it has not been authorised, this is classed as an offence and under these regulations, you will be subject to a fine.

For further information please see the links below:

<https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence>

<http://www.southglos.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools-and-colleges/school-attendance/authorised-and-unauthorised-absence-from-school/>

It is worth noting also that regular short periods of absence are also included in this calculation (the sessions do not need to be concurrent and a total of these absences will be calculated and can be fined for, as well as a straightforward holiday) and absences of this nature can have a noticeable effect on your child in terms of academic progress and also on their relationships with peers in school.

This is not a route we at St Chad's wish to follow unless we have to and really this letter is for a very small number of people who take things too far meaning that we have to have these rules that hit everyone. I need to remind you this is still a national, not school initiative.

I am sorry to need to remind you of this, and I thank each of you who have worked hard to ensure your child is in school regularly and on time. For the vast majority of you, this will not be an issue, never has been an issue and again we thank you.

Kind regards,  
Darren Brown.

