

Q My partner and I are separated. He/she has booked this holiday without asking me. The holiday has been booked by my partner without discussion with me. Please inform my partner that this has been unauthorised.

A If the children are in your care, then you have to make the decision. You need to know the absence will be unauthorised if the holiday is taken.

Q I am self-employed and have to take holidays when business is slack. Surely the school can put together a pack of work for my child, if I agree to see that he/she does a bit each day while on holiday?

A The school will not instruct teachers to provide work in these circumstances, though individuals may choose to do so. Packs of work do not compensate for the elements of the curriculum that will be missed for the holiday.

Q My employer determines when I may take leave. Family holidays are important. Surely the school should recognise this and authorise such holidays?

A Your child's education is important to us. We recognise some difficult situations need to be overcome, but the requirement is that you avoid term time. If you do not, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

Q Ski Holidays / Florida / flights / newspaper special offers are much cheaper at this time. We cannot afford the full price. Why won't the school recognise financial pressures like this?

A We recognise financial pressure, but do not see this as a reason to damage a pupil's education. No exception will be made for that reason.

Q What will happen if my child is persistently unauthorised absent / late for school?

A He/she will be marked unauthorised absence and you may receive a Fixed Penalty.

Q Our family has a wedding anniversary / relatives wedding abroad. They did not think when booking the trip and have paid in full. Can you make an exception?

A The policy of the school is clear, oversight by family members will not be regarded as a reason to change the policy

Q Why didn't anyone tell me the dates of the SATS exams before I booked the holiday?

A Those dates are published in newsletters and on the school website in plenty of time. All term time holiday should be avoided and it is the responsibility of parents to check before booking.

Q Will I receive a fine if I go ahead and take my child on holiday without the school's permission?

A All holidays taken without granted permission will be recorded as an unauthorised absence and reported as such on your child's end of year report. Other penalties will be decided by the Headteacher, with the support of the Governors.

Q I work in the armed services and will be home on leave for "X" weeks only. Time with my children and family is vital. Do you not recognise this?

A Exceptional circumstances are recognised, but service leave allowances do not normally create such problems. The leave will be recorded as unauthorised unless you present clear evidence to the school to prove otherwise.



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FERNHURST JUNIOR SCHOOL



FREQUENTLY
ASKED
QUESTIONS
A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

TERM TIME HOLIDAYS AND
LATENESS TO SCHOOL