



Term Time Absence Agreement

Parents have a responsibility to ensure their children attend school every day. Attendance and absences are monitored very closely by school and if your child misses school regularly, you will be asked to follow measures in order to improve your child's attendance.

When children attend school every day, they have the best opportunity to access our holistic approach to education:

- *They have opportunities to socialise with other children, making friends and learning valuable skills such as communication, empathy and sharing;*
- *They develop their understanding of themselves, their strengths and areas for development, as well as their basic needs such as: a good diet, exercise, sleep and personal hygiene;*
- *They explore and experience key values that will take with them into everyday life: resilience, perseverance, challenge, compassion, teamwork, confidence and many others;*
- *They experience being part of a community at Saint John's, which gives them a sense of belonging and supports their well-being;*
- *They develop their understanding of the local area through cultural capital opportunities;*
- *They have experiences that they remember and shape their interests, understanding of the world and their outlook on life: school trips, visitors, music lessons, sports events and many others;*
- *They have positive interactions with adults who are role models on a daily basis;*
- *They have at least two hours of physical exercise weekly;*
- *Finally, they learn: the curriculum is designed to build children's knowledge, understanding and skills. This stands them in good stead for future success in potential higher education, jobs and careers and opens doors to greater opportunities in life.*

You **must** obtain permission from the head teacher if you want to take your child out of school during term time.

The head teacher is given specific criteria in which to accept or refuse absence requests and you will be informed following your request whether it has been agreed or whether the head teacher is unable to agree to it. If leave is authorised, it is up to the school how many days your child can be away from school and this will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

"A holiday is generally not considered an exceptional circumstance. You cannot usually take your child away during term time." <https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence>

Any period of leave taken without the authorisation of the school, or in excess of that agreed, will be classed as unauthorised and may result in sanctions such as a Penalty Notice.

"The threshold is 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks." (Source: *Working together to improve school attendance*)

School registration is completed twice each day; each day absent from school is represented as two sessions missed.

For further information regarding attendance and absences, please refer to the school's 'Attendance Policy' on our school website.