



REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE IN TERM TIME

If you feel that absence from school in term time is absolutely unavoidable complete this form and return it to the Attendance Manager.

It is illegal for the Headteacher to grant any leave of absence during term time unless in **very** exceptional circumstances.

If a child is selected to represent the school or a club in a significant sporting or musical event, then permission for "approved sporting activity" will be considered.

Permission must be sought before any arrangements are made

Please note that the school will ask the Local Authority to issue a penalty notice if a child is absent due to an unauthorised leave of absence, family or sporting event without the express agreement of the Headteacher and this falls within the Penalty Notice Guidelines as in the School Attendance Policy (printed on the reverse of this form).

Pupil's Name:		Tutor Group:
Home Address:		
I request for my child to be absent from school during the following dates:		
Date of last day at School:	Date of return to School:	Number of School days:
Reasons for absence from school		

I make a request for my child named above to have authorised absence from school for the reasons stated. I understand that if this is not agreed then any absence will be treated as unauthorised and may lead to the issue of a penalty notice or a summons to court for irregular school attendance.

Name of Parent/Carer making application _____

Signed _____

Date _____

School to complete

Authorised	Unauthorised	Date

PENALTY NOTICE INFORMATION

Penalty Notices to Address Poor Attendance at School

A Penalty Notice may be issued as an alternative to the prosecution of a parent/carer for their child's unauthorised absence from school and will be used by Surrey County Council in the following circumstances:-

1. Pupils identified by police and education welfare officers engaged on Truancy Patrols and who have incurred unauthorised absences.
2. Leave of absence in term time (5 days or 10 sessions or more). **Please be aware that The Education (Pupil Registration)(England)(Amendment) Regulations 2013, which became law on 1st September 2013 state that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The Headteacher is also required to determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if leave is granted.**

In such cases the Headteacher/Governing Body have to judge whether there are exceptional circumstances and may request that the Local Authority issue Penalty Notices when the absence is not authorised. Warnings will not be given where it can be shown that parents have been notified that such absences will not be authorised.

3. The issue of a Penalty Notice will also be considered where it is judged that a parent is failing to ensure their child's regular school attendance. This will be considered when a pupil has incurred 7 or more unauthorised sessions in the previous 6 school weeks, which may include a pupil arriving late after close of registration.

If you believe at any stage that your child's absence from school may leave you liable to receive a Penalty Notice, it is extremely important that you take action without delay to secure their regular attendance. If you have any questions or require further support to achieve an improvement, please contact the school or the education welfare officer.

Penalty Notice relating to Exclusions

If a child is excluded from school, Section 103 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 places a duty on parents/carers to ensure that their child is not in a public place without justifiable cause during school hours. This duty applies to the first five days of each exclusion. Failure to do so will render the parent/carer liable to a Penalty Notice. (Alternative education provision will be made available from the sixth day of any exclusion.)

Amount Payable for a Penalty Notice

The amount payable for a Penalty Notice issued in any of the above circumstances is £60 if paid within **21** days of receipt of the Notice, rising to £120 if paid after **21** days but within **28** days. If the Penalty Notice is not paid, the Local Authority must consider a prosecution in the Magistrates Court for the offence for which the Notice was originally issued.

Please be aware that *each* parent is liable to receive a Penalty Notice for *each* child who incurs unauthorised absences, for example, if there are two parents and one child, each parent will receive one Penalty Notice. If there are two parents, and two children incur unauthorised absences, each parent will receive two Penalty Notices, which in this case would amount to £120 each if paid within 28 days.

Advice and support is available from an Education Welfare Officer by contacting your local Education Office as follows :-

North West - Tel: 01483 518130 South West - Tel: 01483 517179
North East - Tel: 01372 833588 South East - Tel: 01737 737777