

Lingfield Primary School

REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE **DURING TERM TIME (exceptional circumstances only)**

Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006
Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013

The 2013 amendments to the 2006 regulations make it clear that Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances, and that Head Teachers should determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if the leave is granted.

Name of Pupil	
Date of Birth	
Tutor/Year Group	
Address	
Contact Numbers	
Sibling Details (or other Children living in the household)	

I request permission for my child to be absent from school between:	
First Day Absence	
Date of Return	
Total School Days	
Please fully explain the exceptional Circumstances that you would like the Head Teacher to consider (continue of a separate sheet if necessary)	

Declaration

I have read and understood the information about leave of absence during term time, unauthorised absence, and Penalty Notices. I am aware of the possible consequences should my child take leave of absence without the prior authorisation of the Head Teacher.

Parent/Carer Name.....Date.....
Parent/Carer Date of Birth

Parent/Carer Signature.....

Important Information for Parents

Parents are required under the Education Act (1996) to ensure their child attends school regularly. There is no automatic right to take a child out of school during term time, but the law allows Head Teachers to consider individual requests to authorise a leave of absence in exceptional circumstances.

The Head Teacher must be satisfied that the exceptional circumstances justify an authorised absence and it is entirely the responsibility of the parent submitting the request to provide sufficient information and evidence in order to establish this fact.

The request for an authorised leave of absence must be made in advance and the Head Teacher may invite the parent into school to discuss the request before a decision is made.

If the circumstances relating to this request are considered exceptional and the absence is authorised by the Head Teacher, the expectation is that the child's attendance will be of a satisfactory level both prior to and after the date covered by the request.

If the request for leave of absence is refused and the absence is recorded as unauthorised, the Head Teacher may refer the matter to the Local Authority requesting a Penalty Notice be issued against you.

A Penalty Notice is £80 if paid within 21 days of receipt, rising to £160 if the notice is paid after 21 days but within 28 days. If the penalty is not paid in full by the end of the 28 days period, the Local Authority may prosecute for the offence to which the notice applies.

Any second penalty notice issued to the same parent for the same child in a rolling 3-year period, the charge will be at a higher rate of £160 with no option for this second offence to be discharged at the lower amount of £80.

A national limit of 2 penalty notices can be issued to a parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period so at the 3rd (or subsequent) offence(s) the Local Authority will investigate legal interventions such as prosecution.

Where there is more than one child, each parent may be issued with a Penalty Notice in respect of each child.

As a parent/carer you can demonstrate your commitment to your child's education by not allowing your child to miss school for anything other than an exceptional and unavoidable reason. Research suggests that children who are taken out of school may never catch up on the learning they have missed, which may ultimately affect exam and test results.

Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance are changing from 19th August 2024

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices issued by DfE, the following changes will come into force for School Penalty Notice Fines issued after 19th August 2024.

National Threshold

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period.

These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence.

The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.

Please note: The DfE does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation to be an exceptional circumstance.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

Per Parent*, Per Child

Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent*, for each child that was absent.

For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

Second Offence (within 3 years)

The Second time a Penalty Notice is issued for the same child for unauthorised absence the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

*Parent

Section 576 of the Education Act 1996 defines "parent" as:

- All natural (biological) parents, whether they are married or not.
- Any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person.
- Any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person.

Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed a Penalty Notice will not be issued and the case could be presented straight to the Magistrate's Court. Prosecution can result in Criminal records and fines of up to £2,500

Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court may show on the parent's future DBS certificate due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.