



# **Policy on Family Holidays During Term Time**

<b>Date agreed</b>	<b>March 2018</b>
<b>Date for Review</b>	<b>March 2020</b>
<b>Head Teacher</b>	<b>Boo Edleston</b>
<b>Chair of Governors</b>	<b>Simon Holden</b>
<b>Signed on behalf of the Governing Body by: Name:</b>	<b>Signature:</b>  <b>Date:</b>
<b>Signed on behalf of the School by:  Boo Edleston Headteacher</b>	<b>Signature:</b>  <b>Date:</b>

In formulating this policy we have consulted with parents, governors and staff and taken advice from the Education Welfare Service Legislation.

## **Introduction**

Absence during term time as a result of term time holidays interrupts continuity of teaching and learning, disrupts the educational progress of individual children and creates disruption in school. Pear Tree aim to minimise the amount of time lost to term time holidays through a policy which actively discourages parents from arranging family holidays during term time and authorises absence for such holidays only in exceptional circumstances.

This policy is intended to make a clear statement regarding the issue of term time holidays, to manage the issue consistently and to ensure that the amount of teaching and learning time lost to term time holidays is as a result minimised. The policy is intended to support the Headteacher in making consistent, robust and informed decisions with regard to the authorising/non-authorising of leave for term time holidays and to ensure that parents develop a consistent understanding of the response which they may expect from our school.

## **Legal and National Context**

Under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996 parents of a child of compulsory school age are under a legal duty to ensure the regular attendance of that child at the school where he/she is a registered pupil. Failure to fulfil this duty may result in the Local Education authority issuing a Penalty Notice to parents.

Nationally, Government policy is to encourage schools to minimise the amount of teaching and learning time lost as a result of term time holidays and schools are now expected to adopt a much more challenging response to requests for leave for such holidays. Schools are also legally required to set targets to reduce overall absence . term time holiday absence is a particular category of absence on which schools are now expected to focus.

Pear Tree Primary School policy with regard to term time holidays is clearly stated in the school brochure and is regularly communicated to parents.

This policy should:

- Remind parents of the importance of ensuring their children's regular, uninterrupted school attendance
- Actively discourage parents from arranging holidays during term time

- Unequivocally remind parents that they do not have any right or entitlement to expect term time leave to be granted and that all leave is granted at the discretion of the headteacher
- State that leave for the purpose of a family holiday will only be granted in exceptional circumstances\*
- Advise parents that if leave is taken without authorisation it will be recorded in the school attendance register as unauthorised absence and that the matter may be referred to the school's Education Welfare Officer. Unauthorised absence can be referred to as truancy.

### **Note**

#### **We do not, as a rule, authorise holidays:**

- If a child's attendance record over the previous 20 week period is less than 95% - even if any previous absence was due to unavoidable causes such as illness; or
- If the period of leave coincides with the start of the term, or is near to, or coincides with, tests, SATs, exams or other significant events in the school calendar
- If a child's parents are separated and it is envisaged that each parent may make a separate request for term time leave the school may wish to decline both requests in order to counter any potential suggestion of unequal/unfair treatment.