



**CARR JUNIOR  
SCHOOL**

*Aim High, Shine Bright*



# HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME POLICY

CARR JUNIOR SCHOOL

*Date of policy:*

*To be reviewed:*

## **Holidays in Term Time**

### **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 schools. Carr Junior school and the City of York Council 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 supports schools to authorise absence for such holidays only in exceptional circumstances.

This policy is intended to encourage and support schools to make a clear statement regarding the issue of term-time holidays, to enable school 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 to make 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 Carr Junior School.

### **At Carr Junior School**

At Carr Junior School we ensure that school policy with regard to term-time holidays is clearly stated in the school brochure and is regularly communicated to parents.

We will:

- 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, that is, as truancy, and that the matter may be referred to the school's Education Welfare Officer.

\*Whilst the headteacher will be required to make individual judgments as to what constitutes "exceptional circumstances", such circumstances might include the following:

- terminal illness, trauma or death in the family.

### **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 prosecuting the parents. If found guilty of the offence, each parent could be fined up to £2,500 and/or sentenced to 3 months imprisonment. The parent may alternatively be subject to a fixed-penalty fine.

Regulation 8 of the Education (Pupil Registration) Regulations 1995 gives schools discretionary power to

grant leave – up to 10 days - for the purpose of an annual holiday during term time. **this is not an entitlement and parents cannot expect leave of absence for the purpose of a holiday to be granted as of right.**

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 as 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.

### **Information regarding the Absence of a Pupil during Term Time**

The Government is using school and pupil information to identify absenteeism from school. Children are being identified to their school by the Education Officers and Department for Education.

<b>F A C T S</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>90% attendance</b> means <b>your child</b> has <b>missed 4 weeks in a school year</b>. Over a Key Stage, this adds up to half a school year!</li><li>● Your child <b>will</b> miss something vital in their learning that may not be taught again</li><li>● If <b>you</b> allow your child to have 12 days in total out of school then you may very well have reduced <b>your child's</b> chances of succeeding at secondary school by 50%!</li><li>● Over half of pupils with 90% or below attendance <b>do not achieve</b> a Level 4, that is the benchmark <b>your child</b> needs in order to manage the secondary school curriculum.</li><li>● 17 missed days equals the drop of one level of attainment at GCSE.</li></ul> <p><b>Persistent Absence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● This is when any pupil has <b>up to 10% of a given period of their time away from school</b></li><li>● It includes unauthorised <b>and</b> authorised absence, or regular absence patterns.</li><li>● It can result in a fine of up to £2500.</li><li>● The Local Authority &amp; DFE monitor the attendance of children. They contact the school when they identify persistently absent children.</li></ul>
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