

Request for authorisation of a

# Pupil Absence Request for Exceptional Circumstances

To the Principal - Priory Community School – an Academy Trust

I wish to apply for (student name):

Class/Tutor Group:

To be authorised as being absent from school from: \_\_\_\_\_ to: \_\_\_\_\_  
(inclusive dates).

The **exceptional** reason why the absence needs to be taken in term time is because *(continue on separate sheet if necessary)*

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Please list below any siblings and schools they attend:

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Amendments to the 2006 regulations (2013) make clear that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are **exceptional circumstances**. Parents do not have the automatic right to withdraw pupils from school and, in law, have to apply for permission in advance.

Please complete this form and send to the Headteacher. You are advised not to make any arrangements until your request has been considered by the school.

**Any absence which has not been agreed in advance by the Headteacher will be marked as "Unauthorised Absence" and may result in a Penalty Notice being issued.**

Signature:  
*(parent/carer)*

Date:

## SCHOOL USE ONLY

Attendance to date: \_\_\_\_\_ Attendance Last Year (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

No. of days requested: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of days already taken: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of days authorised: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of days unauthorised: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Instructions/Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

## GUIDANCE

Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 have been amended (as of 1 September 2013) to prohibit the proprietor (headteacher) of a maintained school granting leave of absence to a pupil except where an application has been made in advance and the proprietor considers that there are **exceptional circumstances** relating to the application. The expectation of the Local Authority is that term time holidays should not be planned or booked as a matter of course as they are likely to be **unauthorised** and will lead to the issuing of a penalty notice (fine).

### Exceptional circumstances

Are defined as:

- Forces Personnel on leave from a foreign posting.
- **Significant** family events or circumstances – these will be considered on an individual basis with you.

The Headteacher will consider every above request individually but the **following will not meet the criteria:**

- Relatives coming to visit
- Cheaper holidays in England and abroad
- Family day trips
- Visiting family/friends who have different half terms or holidays

Authorised officers have the discretion to issue a penalty notice without warning where the parent has chosen to take the child on leave during term time without authorisation or evidence is subsequently found to suggest a child was away from school with the knowledge of the parent and does not meet the statutory defences mentioned below.

### Penalty Notices

Through section 444A and section 444B of the Education Act 1996, it has become possible that certain cases of unauthorised absence can be dealt with by way of a Penalty Notice. Penalty Notices require **each parent** of a child of compulsory school age, whose attendance has been unsatisfactory, to pay a penalty, currently £60.00 if paid within 21 days or £120.00 if paid within 28 days.

If you do not pay the Penalty Notice. In such cases you will be automatically summonsed to appear in Court for an offence under Section 444(1) Education Act 1996 and can result in a criminal conviction recorded against you.

Courts have a wider range of sentencing options, which could include a maximum fine of up to £1000.

The only statutory defences to the offence under Section 444(1) Education Act 1996 are:

- The child was absent for medical reasons (evidence to be provided)
- The LEA failed to provide transport when required to do so
- The absences were due to religious observance
- You had permission of the school or there was an unavoidable cause