

PENDLE VALE COLLEGE

REQUEST FOR EXCEPTIONAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

PENDLE VALE COLLEGE **WILL NOT** AUTHORISE ANY REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR HOLIDAYS DURING TERM TIME AND WILL ONLY AUTHORISE A LEAVE OF ABSENCE IN VERY EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

WHERE THERE ARE EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES, PARENTS/CARERS MUST COMPLETE THIS FORM IN FULL BEFORE MAKING ANY ARRANGEMENTS. BEFORE COMPLETING THIS FORM PLEASE ENSURE YOU HAVE READ THE GUIDANCE ON THE BACK OF THIS FORM.

Name of Child:

Form:

EXACT DATES OF ABSENCE (please put the first & last date your child will be missing from school)

First date of absence:		Last date of absence:	
Date due to return to school:		Total number of days missed from school:	

REASON FOR ABSENCE

Funeral (Immediate family)		Religious Observance		Trauma/Emergency	
Please provide supporting details:					

Signature (Parent/Carer):	Date
Full Name & Address of parents:	
Telephone Number:	

Office use only:

LOA Agreed		LOA Declined		Legal Intervention	
Head's Signature				Date:	

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR PARENTS

(Please read before completing the form overleaf)

What determines whether a term-time absence will be authorised?

Decisions on whether to allow a leave of absence during term-time are made by the Headteacher. In deciding whether to allow a leave of absence during term-time, the college will consider several factors, including the child's age, the time, length, and reason given for the absence, and the child's previous attendance. Good previous attendance is no guarantee that a request for an absence will be granted. National legislation makes it clear that term-time holidays are only allowable 'in exceptional circumstances'. Children and families have 175 days off school to spend time together, including weekends and school holidays.

Why are term-time absence so rarely allowed?

Missing lessons can harm your child's learning:

- Students suffer a break in the continuity of their learning or miss important topics.
- Students lack confidence because they have missed mid-topic information and are unable to understand or catch up – much of the work missed is never made up, which puts students at a disadvantage at exam time.
- Your child's results and progress suffer when they are not in college
- Disruption to your child's learning, friendships, and social development.

Students attending regularly usually leave college with more qualifications and access to greater employment opportunities.

The DfE provides the following guidance:

You can only allow your child to miss school if either:

- They're too ill to go in
- You've got advanced permission from the school

You must get permission from the Headteacher if you want to take your child out of school during term time.

Any leave of absence is granted entirely at the head teacher's discretion.

The application must be made in advance to the Headteacher by the parent the child normally lives with; there must be exceptional circumstances based on the individual facts and circumstances of the case which warrant the leave. Head teachers should not grant leave of absence unless there are exceptional circumstances.

The regulations do not allow schools to give retrospective approval. If the parents did not apply for leave of absence in advance, the absence must be recorded as unauthorised.

Parents should be aware that the following **DO NOT** qualify as exceptional circumstances:

- Absence during term time for holidays
- Absences tagged on to the normal school holiday allowance
- Absences to visit family members where such visits can be scheduled outside schools' hours or during normal holiday periods.

What happens if an absence is not authorised, and is taken anyway?

If the college does not authorise an absence, the college will request that a Fixed Penalty Notice is issued. A Fixed Penalty Notice can also be issued when a child who is granted leave of absence fails to return by the agreed date.

Parents should submit their request for Exceptional Leave at the earliest opportunity and are strongly advised not to finalise any booking arrangements before submission of this form to the College for consideration.