

For further information please contact:

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A free interpreting service is available, if you need help with this information.  
Please telephone Stockport Interpreting Unit on 0161 477 9000.  
Email: eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk

如果你需要他人為你解釋這份資料的內容，我們可以提供免費的傳譯服務，  
請致電 0161 477 9000 史托波特傳譯部。

W przypadku gdybyś potrzebował pomocy odnośnie tej informacji,  
dostępne są usługi tłumaczeniowe. Prosimy dzwonić do Interpreting  
Unit pod numer 0161 477 9000.

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الهاتف: 0161 477 9000



**STOCKPORT**  
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

# Holidays in Term Time

## A Guide for Parents and Carers

**Services for Young People  
Services to People**  
September 2012

## Introduction

This leaflet gives advice to parents and carers of school age children about taking holidays during school term time.

It is well known that missing school for any reason can cause a child to fall behind in their learning. Sometimes children also find it difficult to settle back into school after a break.

In the longer term, evidence shows that reduced levels of school attendance result in lower levels of qualifications achieved at school.

Stockport Council is committed to raising the levels of achievement for all children and young people and to ensuring that all children get the maximum benefit from their time at school.

The Council strongly encourages parents to take holidays with their children during the school holidays, rather than during term time.

## What does the law say?

It is sometimes thought that parents have a right to take children out of school for up to ten days a year for the purpose of taking holidays. This is in fact a myth, and **there is no right to remove children from school for the purpose of a holiday** at all.

The law allows schools to give permission for up to a maximum of ten days for holidays per year (or very exceptionally, even longer). However, this should be rare, and will only happen if the parent or carer is able to demonstrate that special circumstances exist.

Even then, schools may still refuse to allow the holiday for other reasons — for example, if your child has a poor attendance record,

or if the holiday is at a particularly important time, such as in the run up to exams or at the start of a new school year.

Guidance from the Government is clear that permission for holidays can be given only rarely. The guidance also says that the availability of cheaper holidays in term time or holidays overlapping with the beginning or end of term are not good reasons for term time holidays to be allowed.

## What should I do if I want to take my child on holiday in term time?

You should contact your child's school to find out how to make a request for permission. We would strongly recommend that you do this before planning a holiday.

## Who should make the request?

The request should be made by the parent or carer with whom the child lives even if the holiday is to be taken by another person.

## What happens if my child goes on holiday in term time without permission from the school?

The absences will be marked in the school register as unauthorised absences and this may result in fixed penalty fines of £60 (rising to £120) per parent per child being issued by the Local Authority. In some cases, parents may be prosecuted for the offence of failure to ensure regular attendance at school.