



CATOR PARK SCHOOL

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Headteacher

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Ref: DV/Idi

Dear Parent/Carer,

Holidays taken during term time

I am writing to you at this time of year when families may be considering the arrangements for next year's summer holidays. There is a general misconception regarding parents' rights to take their children out of school to accompany them on family holidays. In fact, the legal situation states that whilst a parent may request a holiday, the authorisation of that holiday can only be made by Headteachers.

The Bromley Education Welfare Service is supporting Headteachers who decline to authorise a holiday in term time. A student who takes a ten day holiday between September and May (the DCSF absence survey period) will only attain 93.8 % attendance. Should a child be taken out of school for a two week holiday every year of her school life, she would miss over half a year of schooling. Obviously, that will have an enormous effect on her ability to achieve. Students who miss school will have difficulty catching up and may fall considerably behind their class mates. That will affect the student's academic attainment and possibly her future life chances.

While planning the arrangements for a family holiday, I would urge you to reconsider if your intentions are to take that holiday in term time as these requests will not be authorised. Please investigate the market fully and enjoy your family holiday without affecting your daughter's academic future.

If your daughter already has a poor attendance record, **any** absence during term time will not be acceptable. Families should be reminded that Bromley Education Welfare Service complies with the Government's national directives to consider a Penalty Fine for parents who fail to ensure that their children receive an effective education.



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Families must consider this possibility if they decide to take a holiday contrary to my decision not to authorise the absence. Please remember your holiday may be cheaper but your child's education is a much more important investment in the long term.

I would also encourage you to arrange medical and dental appointments out of school hours or during the school holidays, wherever possible, in order to minimise the impact on learning. Please note that it is not acceptable for routine medical/dental appointments to necessitate a whole day's absence from school.

Yours sincerely,

Ms M Davies
Headteacher