



**ST HELENS**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

### **SCHOOL ATTENDANCE – HOLIDAYS DURING TERM TIME**

The law governing holidays during school term time was tightened up in September 2013. Parents can not authorise absences, only schools can do this. Headteachers have the discretion to grant leave but only in exceptional circumstances. However, it is highly unlikely that family holidays will be authorised.

Children and families have 175 days off school to spend time together, including weekends and school holidays, therefore schools will prioritise attendance during term time

There is clear evidence that absence from school impacts upon a child's attainment and attendance of 95% and above is deemed to be good. When a child's attendance falls to 90% and below, it is considered to be a persistent absence (PA) and parents and carers may be liable for prosecution by the Local Authority.

Education Welfare.