

Mayville High School



Holidays in Term Time Policy

MC 26/4/10

Missing school for any reason can deprive a child of educational opportunities and hamper their progress at school. There is a strong correlation between good school attendance and academic achievement.

I have no wish to be seen as a killjoy who will not allow you to go on holiday, however pupil registration is mandatory in all sectors of education, including the Independent sector.

The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 and the accompanying guidance make it clear that parents/carers do not have a legal right to take their child out of school for holidays in term time. The guidance also notes that that any absence for longer than 10 days in term time must be notified to the local Education Welfare Officer.

It is clear from our current registration information that the total amount of holiday leave granted at Mayville is not causing undue concern. I also believe that some of the longer, far away trips of a lifetime can be of considerable educational advantage and help in the growth in personal confidence of an individual pupil. However, all leave for holidays in term time is discretionary, not an automatic entitlement.

Our term dates are published as far in advance as we can arrange and are, wherever possible, linked to the dates of both Portsmouth and Hampshire schools, especially at ½ terms.

When considering a request for leave of absence parents are asked to be mindful of the following points:

- Absence from school means absence from the learning experience of each individual lesson. Whilst the ‘work’ can be ‘caught up’ all the discussion and contribution to the learning by the teacher cannot.
- Work can sometimes be set to take away but this is not always an effective way of ‘keeping up’.
- Parents are expected to request leave of absence in advance of any such holiday being booked. The school will reply promptly.
- Requests for leave of absence are recommended to be for no more than 1 week of duration.
- Leave of absence for the first week of any term is not desirable. Beginnings are very important and much of our best academic and pastoral work involves gearing up our pupils for the work of the term.
- Absence in the last week of term, whilst slightly less of a concern, will mean that pupils miss that moment of ‘completion’, especially if they are at the end of their time in the Pre-Prep or Junior school.

- Leave of absence will not usually be given to pupils in UV and parents are reminded of the value of the revision week that is during the 3rd week of the Easter holiday.
- Leave of absence should not be requested during times of public exams such as GCSE and KS1 assessments.
- Leave of absence during school exam weeks in the summer term is most unhelpful. The weeks are noted on the annual calendar. Sitting exams outside these set times is not conducive to good academic performance and disrupts the timetable for marking and report writing.
- Leave of absence will not be refused for close family events such as weddings or funerals.
- The school is minded that family life is sometimes very complicated and if you wish to request leave of absence for non-holiday circumstances the Headteacher is always willing to discuss them prior to a written request.
- Leave of absence is unlikely to be approved for a pupil who already has had a significant amount of time off school in the academic year for medical or other reasons.

Unauthorised absence is very rare at Mayville. However, such unauthorized absences are recorded formally and form part of the summative report and assessment of a pupil when they leave the school. References for access to courses, apprenticeships, employment etc always require information regarding the applicants attendance.

It is a mandatory requirement of the school to contact the Local Education Welfare Officer should they have concerns with regard to matters of attendance.

I hope that these expectations are helpful in framing parents' plans for the booking of holidays.