

ST GEORGE'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr Peter Hanratty

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Term Time Holiday Requests

You will already know that the Government, the LEA, and therefore Headteachers are determined to make attendance in schools as high as possible. This is important because high attendance and success at school go hand in hand. The law does not say that pupils have a right to take an authorised leave of absence from school for holidays during term time. However parents can ask a school to authorise absence for this purpose.

As Headteachers in the Taunton area, we want to be as fair and consistent as possible when considering holiday requests. Therefore all schools in the Taunton area have agreed to follow the same approach to requests for holidays in term time.

In making the decision to authorise or not authorise the request, on the basis of 'special circumstances' for holidays totalling 10 days or less in a school year, the Headteacher will consider carefully the following questions:

- The purpose of the holiday?
- Are there compassionate grounds? (e.g. family wedding, funeral)
- Has the child been excluded during the course of the year?
- What will be the effect of the timing of the holiday on the child's education? (e.g. beginning of school year, run up to tests or exams, age of child and National Curriculum year)
- Is the pupil taking part in an educational activity? (e.g. county or national sporting event)
- Any holidays already taken in the school year
- The length of the proposed leave and the child's ability to catch up the work missed
- The child's educational and welfare needs
- The child's general absence/attendance record

In making the decision to authorise or not authorise the request, on the basis of 'exceptional circumstances' for holidays totaling over 10 days in a school year, the Headteacher will consider carefully the following:

- Forces Personnel who are on leave from a foreign posting
- Parents who have significant employment restrictions (the school may ask for evidence from the employer)
- Significant family events or circumstances

Yours sincerely

Peter Hanratty
Headteacher