



ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES POLICY

Background:

Schools are required to provide education for 190 days a year and it is expected that children who are registered at a school will attend for this time. Parents do not have an automatic right for their children to have time off school and any requests for absence for holidays during term-time are entirely at the Principal's discretion.

Research shows that school absence has a negative impact on achievement. For example a student absent from school for a period of two weeks each year for exceptional circumstances and with the average absence for illness may miss the equivalent of one whole year's education over their school life.

Exceptional Circumstances:

At Ron Dearing UTC, requests for term-time holidays will only be granted for exceptional circumstances. These include:

1. Service personnel returning from a tour of duty abroad where it is evidenced the individual will not be in receipt of any leave in the near future that coincides with school holidays.
2. Where an absence from school is recommended by a health professional as part of a parent or child's rehabilitation from a medical or emotional issue.
3. The death or terminal illness of a person close to the family.
4. To attend a wedding or funeral of a person close to the family.

Evidence will be required in each case before the absence is authorised.

Date Implemented: 1st September 2017

Reviewed: 1st September 2019