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 are entirely at the Principal's discretion.

Research shows that children do not achieve as well in their education and in public examinations the more school absence they have.

General Principles

The following general principles underpin this policy:

(i) The principles of honesty, openness, transparency and the spirit of co-operation;

(ii) Where a request for absence form is not submitted, absences cannot be authorised retrospectively; this is prescribed in law and in these circumstances the penalty notice code of conduct must be followed;

(iii) RDUTC will review the policy annually or in line with any legislative changes.

In order for consideration to be given, requests for absence must be for exceptional circumstances only. The Principal will NOT authorise absence purely for the purpose of a family holiday as this is not an exceptional circumstance. Exceptional circumstances include:

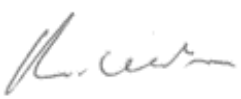
1. Service personnel returning from a tour of duty abroad where it is evidenced the individual will not be in receipt of any leave in the near future that coincides with school holidays.

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 would be required in each case.



Signed: (Chair of Governors)

Date: 1st Sept. 2024