



# Chippenham Partnership of Schools

## Absence Policy

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **Parent 1**

**Question:** *My work means that I cannot take holiday during the school summer holidays. Can I take my children away during October?*

**Answer:** *I am not able to authorise this leave of absence as there are many opportunities, other than the summer holiday period, for family holidays. Please use the week-long breaks at half-term or the two weeks available at Christmas or Easter.*

#### **Parent 2**

**Question:** *I'd like to add an additional day's holiday onto the October half term break.*

**Answer:** *I am not able to authorise this as the government guidance does not allow it. Ofsted also look very poorly on this.*

#### **Parent 3**

**Question:** *My brother is getting married in Germany. We would like leave of absence to attend.*

**Answer:** *An application can be made with supporting evidence to prove that it is an exceptional circumstance. It is possible that up to 3 days could be authorised, 2 days for travelling if necessary and 1 day to attend the wedding.*

#### **Parent 4**

**Question:** *The children's grandparents have booked and paid for a holiday in term-time. We have to go.*

**Answer:** *I cannot authorise leave of absence in term-time. Should you choose to take the holiday, it is likely that you will be issued with a penalty notice by the local authority.*

#### **Parent 5**

**Question:** *My children receive free school meals. We cannot afford a holiday except in term-time.*

**Answer:** *Leave of Absence in term-time is against the government rules and I am not allowed to authorise it. Should you choose to go away at this time a penalty notice is very likely to be issued by the local authority.*

#### **Parent 6**

**Question:** *My child has been invited to go away with Swindon Football Academy during term-time.*

**Answer:** *I consider this to be an educational opportunity, but taking place off-site, and am happy to authorise this.*

#### **Parent 7**

**Question:** *My aunt recently passed away. We were very close and feel that we need some time away as a family to cope with this.*

**Answer:** *The government guidance states that only when immediate family are involved should leave be authorised. I cannot authorise leave for extended family.*

#### **Parent 8**

**Question:** *My husband returns from a tour of duty in Afghanistan next week having been away for 6 months. Can you authorise 5 days Leave of Absence for us to have a family holiday in term-time?*

**Answer:** *I do consider this to be an exceptional circumstance and will authorise 5 days (10 sessions) in this instance, but I do need to see the evidence that he has been away.*