

Mawsley Community Primary School



Holidays in Term Time Policy

Policy Ownership	TLO
Statutory Requirement	No
Date reviewed by Committee	15/10/2018
Adopted by Full Governing Board	15/10/2018
Formal Review	September 2020

TERM TIME HOLIDAYS

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

How will I know when the official school holidays are?

If you are unsure of the term dates you can either:

1. Ask the school office for a copy of the term dates
2. Log on to the school website for information: www.mawsleyschool.co.uk
3. Log on to the NCC website: www.northamptonshire.co.uk

What about the extra days that schools close for?

The academic year consists of 195 days. Pupils are required to attend for 190 days each year. However, each year a school can select 5 days for staff development. These professional development days are usually known as Teacher Training Days. Schools can decide when these Teacher Training Days will be or follow those set out by the Local Authority.

The dates of these Training Days will be communicated to parents through the regular newsletter, school diary and on the school website.

What will the school do if there is a request for a holiday in term time?

The school will only authorise absence for holidays, requested in advance, in very exceptional circumstances in accordance with Northamptonshire County Council policy. Information relating to the NCC policy is included at the end of this document.

Holidays **cannot** be authorised for the following reasons:

- Because they are cheaper in term time than during school holidays
- Because the time is more convenient to the parents or carers

Holidays **may** be authorised if:

- The timing is due to the parent's work operating a set "shut down" period in the year where all workers are required to holiday at the same time.
- In rare situations where a parent is a member of an armed or uniformed service, where holiday is strictly non-negotiable or an emergency service.
- The family have an extenuating circumstance which the Headteacher feels can be justified.

What should I do if we feel we have an extenuating circumstance?

In all cases schools will expect parents/carers to complete, sign and return the school's Absence Request Form when they take their child/children out of school for any planned purpose. This request will be judged against the criteria given to schools. Parents/carers will then be notified of the school's view.

If parents feel they have extenuating circumstances they may like to request a meeting with the Headteacher to discuss this or provide additional information on the request form.

Points to Note:

These regulations have been put in place to make the rules clear and discourage parents from taking their children out of school unnecessarily. It is useful to know that:

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS

NCC subscribes to the DfE policy view that holidays in term time are detrimental to a pupil's education. It is acknowledged that holidays in term time can be seen to offer a personally enriching experience; however this cannot replace the learning and achievement provided by regular attendance at school. All children should receive the 190 days of full time, effective education that they are entitled to.

NCC's stance is holidays in term time should be actively discouraged by both schools and parents and should be authorised only in exceptional circumstances. As a Children's Service we recommend that schools unauthorise term time holidays in all but exceptional circumstances.

Legislation Changes from September 2013

Parents can be fined by the Local Authority for taking their child on holiday during term time without the consent of the school. It is important that parents understand that the initial fixed penalty notice of £60 is issued to each parent for each child. A two parent family with two children would be fined £240.