



Leave of Absence Exceptional Circumstances' Request Form

The Government does not support parents taking children out of school unless the school agrees this is appropriate under 'exceptional circumstances.' Attendance is vital to academic success and lost education poses a potential risk of underachievement. This is something we all have a responsibility to avoid.

The Department for Education no longer allows Headteachers to grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. If you consider that your request for absence is exceptional you will need to complete the form on page 2. A response will be sent to you as soon as possible. If leave is not authorised and you nevertheless withdraw your child from school, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised absence.

If your child is absent from school without authorisation, you will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £80 if paid within 21 days or £160 if paid after this but within 28 days.

If your child is further absent from school without authorisation within any 3-year period, you will be committing a further offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices for a second offence are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £160, payable within 28 days.

Importantly, fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action such as a parenting order or prosecution will be considered.

Failure to pay the Penalty Notice may also result in legal action. If you are prosecuted and attend court because your child has not been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500. Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court, including legal costs.

Absence not authorised by the school may also result in a prosecution in the Magistrates' Court under Section 444(1) or Section 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996, leading to a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a custodial sentence. Again, Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court, including legal costs.

Money raised from fines is only used by the local authority to cover the costs of administering the system, and to fund attendance support. Any extra money is returned to the government.

'Parent' as set out in Section 576 of the Education Act 1996, defines parent to include: natural parents, whether they are married or not; any person or body who has parental responsibility for a child (as defined by the Children Act 1989) and; any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child. Having care of a child means a person with whom a child lives and who looks after a child, irrespective of what their relationship is with said child.

All requests must be completed on this form; letters will not be accepted. This form should be returned to the Attendance Office at least 15 school days before the start of the absence.



Application by Parent / Carer

If you consider an absence during term time to be an exceptional circumstance, please complete this form and return it to the Attendance Office at least 15 school days before the date you wish to remove your child from school.

Child Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Tutor Group/ Class: _____

Home Address: _____

Post Code: _____ Name of Parent/Carer completing this form: _____

First day of absence: _____ Date of return to school: _____

If leaving your home address before the first day of absence, please provide the date on which you will leave
_____ Total number of days missed: _____ days

Name of sibling/s who attend(s) a primary school: Child's Name (s) _____ School(s): _____

Reason for absence: _____

*I understand that if the absence request is unauthorised the school may request that Cornwall Council issue a Penalty Notice. I understand that a Penalty Notice is issued to **each** liable parent/carers of **each** child taken out of school and that this carries a fine of £80 if paid within 21 days, increasing to £160 if paid within 28 days (or £160 with no option to pay the lower amount if it is the 2nd penalty notice within a rolling 3-year period). I understand that if I do not pay the fine, it may result in legal action being taken against me. **I understand that parents have a duty to ensure their child's regular attendance at school and failure to do so is an offence under Section 444(1) and Section 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996.***

Signed

Dated (Please ensure you give at least 15 school days' notice of the proposed absence)

Below to be completed by the school: FAO – Headteacher

% Current	% Last Year	Comments	
Student Name		Tutor	
AUTHORISED	UNAUTHORISED	Request has been authorised for the following dates <u>only</u> : ____ / ____ / ____ to ____ / ____ / ____	
Signed		Headteacher	Date
Letter sent / Phone Call / other		Signed:	Date
Action: PN Request		Signed:	Date