



## Advantages For Children Who Attend School Regularly

Pupils with good attendance will generally:

- Be less anxious about going to school.
- Achieve more in school.
- Feel happier and find it easier to make and keep friends at school.
- Have access to school clubs, activities and sports.
- Do better in tests and examinations.
- Have better prospects of employment and training when leaving school.

## For More Information

Always contact your child's school first, as the Headteacher is the only person to whom the law gives discretionary power to grant the exceptional leave of absence.

Please also refer to your child's school attendance policy:

- For MOD schools; DCS Directive 3.2.6 School Attendance.
- JSP 342: Education of Service Children & young people
- JSP 760: Tri-Service Regulations for Leave and Other Types of Absence

You may also seek advice from The Education Welfare Team. Contact:

**[RC-DCS-HQ-WSW@mod.gov.uk](mailto:RC-DCS-HQ-WSW@mod.gov.uk)**



Defence  
Children  
Services

# Absence from school during term time

Parent Information Leaflet





## Information for Parents/Carers

**All DCS schools have an attendance policy. Their policy discourages parents requesting absences during term time.**

There are 365 days in a calendar year. Your child is expected to attend school 190 days per year. This means there are 175 days for holidays, birthday treats, special events, family events and non urgent appointments.

Children of school age who are on roll at a school must, by law, attend the school regularly and on time.

All leave requests are at the discretion of the Headteacher at your child's school.

There may be occasions when a child must miss school - for example, if unwell. Any other absences should be kept to a minimum. Parents should avoid taking children out of school during term-time in order to go on a holiday.

The regulations make it clear that parents do not have an automatic right or entitlement to take a child out of school.

It is recognised that on occasions there may be extenuating or compassionate reasons for an absence to be authorised such as Post Operational Leave, but parents must be aware that this can significantly impact their child's attendance.

If the absence request is not authorised by the school and the absence is still taken, this will remain unauthorised.

If leave is granted but the child remains absent for longer than agreed, then this extra time will be recorded as an unauthorised absence.

Should a child fail to return to school on the agreed date, consideration may be taken to remove them from the school roll inline with legal guidance. Parents would then be responsible for reapplying for their child's school place with no guarantee of school place back at the same school.



Attendance	Days attended	Days absent	Lost learning hours
100%	190	0	0
98%	186	4	20
96%	182.5	7.5	37.5
94%	179	11	55
92%	175	15	75
90%	171	19	95
86%	163	27	135
80%	152	38	190