



# Stanley St. Andrew's Church of England Primary School

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5<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents/Grandparents,

## **Term Time Absence**

One of the many roles of the school's governing body is to monitor pupil attendance and we have always been proud of our outstanding attendance data. We are extremely fortunate that throughout the pandemic we have remained open to our keyworker children and did not have to close any of our bubbles. We know that staff and families have been diligent in following government guidelines and we are extremely grateful for this as we believe this has really helped to minimise the impact of the virus on our school.

Governors are also aware of the ongoing concerns of our parents around the impact of lockdowns on their child's education. We want you to know that all staff are working really hard to mitigate any impact and to ensure that all children are where they need to be while making sure that children feel happy and safe.

Although Covid continues to influence attendance in school, we are also seeing a lot of seasonal illnesses and this seems to be affecting schools more significantly this year, perhaps because children's immune systems have had less exposure to illness over the last 18 months. This will of course impact our attendance figures although we appreciate that there is little we can do to mitigate this other than to continue with the stringent cleaning and handwashing procedures we have in school, and asking parents to keep their child off school when poorly.

We are however becoming more concerned about the high number of parents requesting a leave of absence for their child/children for the purpose of a holiday or break during term time. While we do appreciate that the pandemic has meant for some parents, particularly keyworkers, that they have been limited in when they can take a holiday, and we also know that the price of holidays has increased greatly over the recent months, we are still very concerned about the effect of planned term time absence.

When a child is absent from school for even just a day the implications of this can be felt by many. Missing a lesson will mean that your child's class teacher will need to dedicate extra time to help them catch up on and this in turn will disrupt the learning of the rest of their class. The longer the duration of your child's absence, the bigger the impact. So please, we ask you to consider this when you contemplate taking your child out of school during term time.

At the governing body meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021, governors discussed the school's statement on term time absence alongside our attendance policy. This discussion took into account the recent guidance issued to headteachers by Derbyshire County Council which states that the local authority position on term time absence remains the same, that being that "The 2013 Pupil Registration Regulations have not changed. Head teachers are still required to determine whether a request for absence is authorised on the grounds of exceptional circumstances or not."

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Following this discussion, governors agreed that our statement on term time absence should remain unchanged as this clearly sets out the school's position on term time absence and the possible issuing of penalty notices by the local authority.

We understand that there may be occasions when a child may need time off during term time due to exceptional circumstances and this is covered in both our attendance policy and our statement. Please be assured that all requests under exceptional circumstances will be treated in confidence and given individual consideration.

Both the attendance policy and the statement on term time absence can be found on our school website, or you can request a paper copy from the school office, and we ask that all parents read both documents. We hope that these documents make clear the school's position on term time absence for parents.

If you should have any questions at all about either our policy or our statement on term time absence, please contact either myself or Elizabeth Stanley-Wainwright through the school office.

Yours sincerely,

*E Jackson*

Mrs Elizabeth Jackson  
Chair of Governors



An Intelligent heart acquires knowledge and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge. Proverbs 18:15