

## LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS



# SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY POLICY ON APPLICATIONS FOR HOLIDAYS AND LEAVE IN TERM TIME

Policy Version & Issue Date	Version: 1 May 2021
Person responsible for review	Nimesha Nagahawatte (Head of School)
School	Harbinger Primary School
Signed on behalf of the Governing Body:	
Date approved by Governors	May 2021
Date of next review:	December 2023

The Department for Education has issued guidance to schools and Local Authorities in relation to holidays and leave in term time and this policy reflects the requirements of this guidance.

The School Governing Body has authorised the Headteacher to act on its behalf in ensuring that the school fully complies with the requirements.

### **Applications for Holidays or Leave in Term Time**

Any applications for leave in term time must be submitted at least 10 days in advance to the Headteacher. Applications received during or after a pupil has been taken on leave during term time cannot be considered and the absence will be unauthorised.

Parents/Carers must provide supporting evidence of any exceptional circumstances and why the leave must be taken in term time instead of in the school holidays. All applications will be considered carefully, including how the pupil's educational progress could be affected. Where the request for leave involves travelling abroad parents are asked to produce the return tickets before leave is approved.

### **Holidays in Term Time**

The guidance from the Department for Education states that applications from Parents/Carers for pupils to take leave in term time for the purpose of a holiday should not normally be authorised. Parents/Carers are expected to arrange holidays during school holiday periods when children can enjoy them without their education being disrupted. This position is fully supported by the Local Authority and the School Governing Body.

Any applications for holidays in term time will be refused by the Headteacher unless there is evidence of very exceptional circumstances and of why the leave must be taken in term time instead of in the school holidays.

### **Leave in Term Time for Other Reasons**

Requests for leave in term time for other reasons can only be agreed in exceptional circumstances and for the shortest possible period. The School Governing Body also expects applications for leave in term time other than for holidays to normally be refused. However, in exceptional circumstances discretion may be appropriate, although this will very rarely happen and no more than 10 days will normally be agreed.

When considering an application for leave in term time for exceptional circumstances, the Headteacher must be convinced that:

- (1) The exceptional circumstances are justified by supporting evidence provided by the parents/carers related to the circumstances and that the supporting evidence is valid;

and

- (2) The evidence necessarily warrants the child being absent from school in term time - does the child have to be absent in term time due to the circumstances or can it wait until the school holidays?

### **Taking of Unauthorised Leave in Term Time**

Where Parents/Carers choose to take pupils on unauthorised leave in term time then the pupils will be referred to the Attendance & Welfare Service for follow-up and consideration for action using the LBTH Penalty Notice Scheme to address Attendance-related Concerns.

A Penalty Notice may be served on an individual Parent/Carer per individual child basis when the child has had 6 sessions (3 days) of unauthorised leave in term time. Where 2 Parent/Carers take 3 children on unauthorised leave in term time then they will receive 3 Penalty Notices of £60 each - £180 per parent and £360 in total. There is no right of appeal.

### **Losing the school place**

Parents are responsible for returning their child to school on the agreed date. Failure to comply may result in loss of your child's school place.

Parents will then have to re-apply for admission when they return but it may not be possible for the pupil to return to this school.

---

## **SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY POLICY ON APPLICATIONS FOR HOLIDAYS AND LEAVE IN TERM TIME**

I have read and understood the Governors' Policy above.

Name of pupil:	Date of birth:
Signature of parent/carer:	Date: