



**THE
HASTINGS
ACADEMY**

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Part of the Hastings Academies Trust

**WITHDRAWAL FROM LEARNING APPLICATION
DURING TERM TIME REQUEST**

NOTICE TO PARENTS/CARERS

Dear Parent/Carer

The Department for Education amended the regulations and guidance in relation to student absences in term time. There is no automatic right to take your child out of school during term time.

Since 1st September 2013, the Department for Education guidance only allows a Principal to grant a withdrawal from learning request if there are **exceptional circumstances**. In determining whether or not an absence in such circumstances can be authorised, it is for the Principal to determine the number of days a child can be absent from school if the application is granted.

If you consider that your request falls into this category you will need to complete the enclosed **'Withdrawal from Learning' application form**'. A copy of this form will be returned to you showing my decision. If the absence requested is not considered to be an exceptional circumstance, and you nevertheless take your child out of school, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised in line with County Council guidance.

Therefore, in the case of an unauthorised absence the Education Support, Behaviour & Attendance Service will be notified and a Penalty Notice may be issued. Please note that Penalty Notices are issued to each parent for each child taken out of school. A Penalty Notice is a fine of £60 per parent per child which increases to £120 if not paid within the first 21 days. If the Penalty Notice remains unpaid this will result in further legal intervention.

All absence requests must be completed on the enclosed form, letters will not be accepted. The request should be submitted to the Academy a minimum of 14 days before the start of the absence.

Any absence from school will disrupt your child's learning. You may consider some absences to be educational but your child will still miss out on the teaching that other students will receive. Children returning from an absence are unprepared for the lessons which build on the teaching they have missed. Teachers then have to give more time to help individual children catch up on missed work. This poses a potential risk of the under achievement of other students in the class. This is something we all have a responsibility to avoid.

I hope you will support our efforts to raise attendance and attainment at our academy.

Yours faithfully

Stuart Smith
Principal
Enc



WITHDRAWAL FROM LEARNING APPLICATION

DURING TERM TIME

If, after reading the notice to parents/carers attached with this application, you consider you have exceptional circumstances to request a withdrawal from learning during term time, please complete this form and return to the school at least 14 days' before the date you wish to remove your child from school.

Student Name Tutor Group

Home Address

First day of absence Date of return to school

Total number of days missed

Exceptional circumstances are as follows:-

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I understand that if the request is unauthorised the Education Support, Behaviour & Attendance Service will be notified of the absence taken and a Penalty Notice will be issued. I understand that a Penalty is issued to each parent for each child taken out of school and that this is a fine of £60 per parent per child which increases to £120 if not paid within the first 21 days. I understand that if I do not pay this will result in legal action.

Name of Parent (s) /Carer (s) making application

1) 2)

Signed Signed

Date of application: (Please ensure you are giving at least 14 days' notice of the proposed absence).

This section to be completed by The Principal, Mr S. Smith

AUTHORISED: Your request has been authorised for the following dates: ___ / ___ / ___ to ___ / ___ / ___

UNAUTHORISED: Your request has been unauthorised for the following dates: ___/___/___ to ___/___/___

It is not considered that the circumstances you describe are exceptional. If you proceed to take the absence a Penalty Notice/s will be issued.

Signed Principal Date ____ / ____ / ____

This application request will be returned to you for your record on the Principal's decision.