

## Schools Attendance Support Service

# Leave of Absence Request

**Before completing this form, please read the Guidance Notes for Parents**

### Section A: Child's Details

**All sections must be fully completed – Please complete a separate Leave of Absence Request for each child**

|                 |  |               |  |
|-----------------|--|---------------|--|
| School          |  |               |  |
| Child's Name    |  | Date of Birth |  |
| Child's Address |  |               |  |
|                 |  |               |  |

### Section B: Reason for Leave of Absence – THIS MUST BE COMPLETED

I would like to request a Leave of Absence for the above-named child:

|                                   |  |                                  |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|
| First date of Absence from school |  | Last date of Absence from school |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|

Head Teachers can only authorise a Leave of Absence Request if they consider that the detail and information you provide is an exceptional circumstance. You **MUST** provide all the details and information you would want the Head Teacher to consider in deciding if your request can be granted.

|                                                                                           |                             |                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
|                                                                                           |                             |                              |
|                                                                                           |                             |                              |
|                                                                                           |                             |                              |
|                                                                                           |                             |                              |
|                                                                                           |                             |                              |
|                                                                                           |                             |                              |
|                                                                                           |                             |                              |
| Is the applicant (named below) accompanying the child for the requested Leave of Absence? | No <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |

**By signing this application, I understand and agree with the following:**

1. I have read the Leave of Absence Request Guidance Notes and understand if the Head Teacher declines the Leave of Absence, the school can request issue of a Penalty Notice (a fine of up to £160 in respect of each child) and I/we may be subject to further legal proceedings in the Magistrates Court.
2. I am a Parent/Carer with whom the child 'normally resides'.
3. I understand it is the Head Teacher's decision as to what is and what is not an "exceptional circumstance" and I should discuss any questions I have regarding the decision made by the Head Teacher prior to the absence starting.
4. It is my responsibility as a parent / carer to ensure I know whether the leave has been authorised by the Head Teacher.

|                                   |                                        |               |  |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------|--|
| Parent/Carer Applicant PRINT NAME | Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss (delete as appropriate) | Date of Birth |  |
| Parent/Carer Applicant SIGNATURE  |                                        | Date          |  |
| Relationship to child             | Parent / Carer Telephone No.           |               |  |

**Please turn over for Section C**

### Section C: Additional Parent/Carer(s)

**Please enter details of any other parent/carers responsible for taking the child out of school**

|                                                                                           |                                        |                             |                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Parent/Carer<br>FULL NAME                                                                 | Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss (delete as appropriate) | Date of Birth               |                              |
| Address<br>(if different from<br>pupil's home<br>address)                                 |                                        |                             |                              |
|                                                                                           |                                        |                             |                              |
| Relationship to pupil                                                                     |                                        |                             |                              |
| Is the applicant (named above) accompanying the child for the requested Leave of Absence? |                                        | No <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Parent/Carer<br>FULL NAME                                                                 | Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss (delete as appropriate) | Date of Birth               |                              |
| Address<br>(if different from<br>pupil's home<br>address)                                 |                                        |                             |                              |
|                                                                                           |                                        |                             |                              |
| Relationship to pupil                                                                     |                                        |                             |                              |
| Is the applicant (named above) accompanying the child for the requested Leave of Absence? |                                        | No <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |

### NOTE TO SCHOOL

**PART 2** – please complete with this form.

# Guidance Notes for Parents

Under the Education (Pupil Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 absence **may not** be authorised unless:

- (a) An application has been made in advance to the Head Teacher by a Parent/Carer with whom the pupil normally resides (lives with most of the time); and
- (b) The Head Teacher, or a person authorised by them, considers that Leave of Absence should be granted due to the exceptional circumstances relating to that application.

It is only a parent **'with whom the child normally resides'** (lives with most of the time) that can apply for a Leave of Absence for their child. A parent/carer who does not live with the child **cannot** apply for a Leave of Absence. ***Please speak to your school for advice.***

Parents/carers should ensure that any Leave of Absence application is made **BEFORE** any Leave of Absence is taken.

Parents/carers should ensure that they know if their Leave of Absence application has been authorised by the Head Teacher **before** planning, booking, or paying for anything in relation to that Leave of Absence application. It is your responsibility to check school holiday dates. Please check with your school.

Parents/carers should ensure they provide the Head Teacher with all details and information they would want the Head Teacher to know in deciding if a Leave of Absence can be authorised.

It is at the Head Teacher's discretion to decide if the detail and information provided by a parent/carer can be considered as an 'exceptional circumstance' and agree if any Leave of Absence can be authorised. Schools operate in conjunction with the Local Authority to adhere to National Guidance.

Disagreements between parents/carer(s) and schools in relation to what is and is not an 'exceptional circumstance' cannot be considered by the Schools Attendance Support Service. You will need to discuss this with your school directly.

If a Leave of Absence is not authorised and the child is then absent from school, the Head Teacher can request that the Schools Attendance Support Service issue parents/carer(s) with Penalty Notices.

The Schools Attendance Support Service can only issue Penalty Notices for Leave of Absence following receipt of a request to do so by the school.

Penalty Notices are issued based on the information and detail provided by the school and in accordance with the Penalty Notice Code of Conduct <https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/schoolattendancepenalty>

Once issued, a Penalty Notice cannot be 'withdrawn' unless it meets the criteria detailed in Paragraph 34 of the Code of Conduct.

There is no statutory right of appeal to the Local Authority. Any disputes must be discussed with the Head Teacher and it should be noted Penalty Notices are issued with National Statutory Guidance.

The fine for school absences across the country will be £80 if paid within 21 days, **or** £160 if paid within 28 days when this is the first penalty notice issued.

In the case of repeated fines, if a parent receives a second fine for the same child within any three-year period, this will be charged at the higher rate of £160. This must be paid within 28 days.

Fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action / prosecution will be considered.

**Unpaid Penalty Notices may result in Parents/Carer(s) being prosecuted under Section 444(1) and fined up to £1,000 per Parent/Carer per child plus Court costs. If a history of offences exists, parents may be prosecuted under Section 444(1A) Education Act 1996 and the court can impose fines up to £2,500 per child, order payment of the prosecution costs, impose a Parenting Order and/or sentence parents to a period of imprisonment of up to 3 months. This reflects the seriousness of unauthorised absence from school.**