

Colin Pettigrew  
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Date: 30 September 2013  
Our ref: CP/SL  
Your ref:

Dear Parent/Carer

The purpose of this letter is to inform and help you plan in the knowledge of some important changes in the law.

The Department for Education (DfE) has announced important amendments to legislation surrounding holidays in term time.

From the 1st September 2013, the new law gives no entitlement to parents to take their child on holiday during term time. Any application for leave must only be in exceptional circumstances and the Head teacher must be satisfied that the circumstances are exceptional and warrant the granting of leave. Head teachers would not be expected to class any term time holiday as exceptional; parents can be fined by the Local Authority for taking their children on holiday during term time without consent from school.

In the academic year 2011 to 2012, 1 in 10 of all absences in England were due to parents taking their children out of school during term time. This high level of absence has led the DfE to make this important change to legislation.

As a Local Authority we recognise the challenges that some parents face when booking holidays, particularly during school holidays. However all time in school is precious so we are expecting that all schools in Sefton will introduce firm policies and carry out stringent checks to ensure that there is a significant reduction in the numbers of such absences occurring during term time. We will be monitoring all school absences during term time.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Local Authority and your child's school to thank you in advance for your full support in this matter by not taking your child out of school during term time.

This new legislation will bring about increased attendance and improved standards in Sefton schools.

I hope this letter has been informative and will help you understand the changes and possible consequences of any unauthorised term time absence.

If you have any queries, please contact the Attendance and Welfare Service on 0151 934 3359. Further information can be obtained from [www.dfe.gov.uk](http://www.dfe.gov.uk).

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Colin Pettigrew', written in a cursive style.

**Colin Pettigrew**  
**Director, Young People and Families**