

Important Notice for Parents and Carers

RE: Term Time Holidays and Unauthorised Absence

Dear Parent/Carer,

Along with all Islington Schools, St. Aloysius' College has a legal duty to ensure pupils attendance at school is as good as it can possibly be; as well as to investigate any absence so that the reasons are clear.

St. Aloysius' College has made significant improvements in its attendance over the past 3 years and is one of the most improved schools in Islington. This is a huge credit to the support of parents and carers who ensure that their children are at school as often as possible in order to receive the education that they are entitled to.

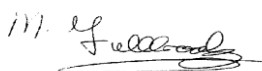
However, one of the main reasons for absence continues to be unauthorised holiday and leave during term time (including traveling to another country), in particularly at the start and end of each term.

Please be aware that it is against the law for parents and carers to take children on holiday or to take unauthorised leave during term time. A request for leave during term time is only ever permissible in particularly exceptional circumstances (and in line with Islington guidance and policy, this does not typically include visiting a sick relative in another country). Any genuinely exceptional requests for leave will be considered on a case by case basis.

Please do not book holidays or flights abroad during term time. After half term, I will be reviewing all requests for absence and the reasons for them (and where appropriate, I will be looking at any evidence provided by parents around exceptional circumstances). Please be aware that where parents take unauthorised holidays and trips abroad, they could be subject to a warning and a penalty notice.

I know that the school is keen to avoid parents being in a position where they receive a penalty notice, which is why I am writing to parents now to make sure that everyone is very clear about the rules around term time absence. If you have any questions regarding this letter or would like to speak to me about any aspect of it, then please do feel free to contact me on 07720 996615 to discuss the matter.

Yours sincerely,



Martin Fullbrook / Education Welfare Officer