



REEPHAM HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE

A Specialist Science, Applied Learning and Mathematics & Computing Centre



Principal: Christopher Hassell B.A. M.Ed.

CH/JMB

12th January 2010

Dear Parent / Carer,

Holidays in Term Time

The Reepham Cluster – high school and eight feeder primaries – is following good practice in agreeing and issuing a shared policy on holidays in term time. A copy is attached.

When you read the policy you need to be aware of the difference between “authorised” and “unauthorised” absence.

- Authorised absence is absence which the school approves as reasonable.
- Unauthorised absence is absence which the school does not believe should have taken place.

Unauthorised absence can be seen as a particular cause of concern by attendance officers, other educational institutions, prospective employers etc. Most students will have no unauthorised absences throughout their entire school career.

I hope you understand the reason behind the policy which basically reinforces the practice we have adopted over many years, practice which the overwhelming majority of families have supported.

I am sure you will recognise there is an irony in the timing of the policy’s issue: Reepham, like most other Norfolk schools, having been forced to close because of hostile weather conditions. I suppose it could be argued this simply reinforces the argument children should be in school whenever possible. In any event, thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Christopher Hassell
Principal

REEPHAM



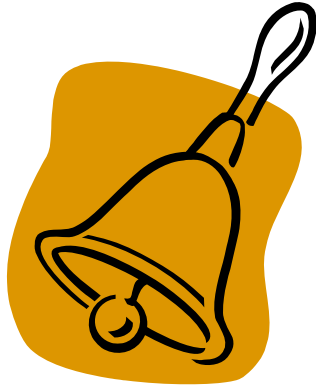
OUR SCHOOLS

WORKING TOGETHER

CLUSTER

Holiday Policy

2009 - 2010



Our school's attendance target for 2009-2010 is 93.06%.

Last year we achieved an attendance of 93.5% and we are trying to do even better this year.

Absence from school can only be authorised at the discretion of the Headteacher.

Your child's school is open for 190 days every year.

This leaves 175 days for holidays, regular medical appointments, shopping and spending time together.

If you have 10 days holiday this will mean you only have 180 days at school and 185 days off each year.

If your child has 10 days holiday they can only achieve 94.74% attendance.

If your child has 10 days holiday and 5 days sick each year they can only achieve 92.11% attendance.

If your child has 15 days off school each year they will miss 195 days (more than a whole academic year) during their 13 years education.

10 days makes a big difference to your child.

It affects their ability to succeed.

It affects their opportunity to make and keep friends.



The Law:

All children have a legal right to education.

All parents are legally responsible for their child's attendance.

If a parent fails to ensure regular attendance they may be prosecuted.

Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 places a duty on all parents to ensure their children receive an efficient full time education.

Parents who are seen to fail in their duty can be brought before the Magistrates Court where a maximum £2500 fine and/or 3 month prison sentence can be imposed.



Holiday Information

DCSF:

“Schools can only agree to absence for a family holiday if they believe there are special circumstances which warrant it.”



Parents should not normally take pupils on holidays in term time and parents must apply for the leave in advance of taking it.”
Department for Children,
Schools and Families, May 2008

- All parents/carers must complete a [holiday form](#) before booking or taking any holiday.
- All requests will need to be discussed with the Headteacher, or senior member of staff.
- If your child has less than 95% attendance over the previous year, holidays will not be authorised.
- No holidays will be authorised in September.
- No holidays will be authorised during school assessment periods.

Working together we can achieve great things for your children but we can only teach those who attend!



Reepham High School and College	01603 870328
Astley Primary School	01263 860212
Bawdeswell Community Primary School	01362 688282
Cawston VC Primary School	01603 871249
Corpusty Primary School	01263 587320
Foulsham Primary School	01362 683389
Great Witchingham CE VA Primary School	01603 872354
Lyng CE VC Primary School	01603 872828
Reepham Primary School	01603 870321