



GOLDINGTON GREEN ACADEMY

Headteacher: Mrs C Skingsley BEd Hons

Goldington Road, Bedford MK41 0DP

Telephone: 01234 326335

E-mail: admin@goldingtongreenacademy.co.uk Website: www.goldingtongreenacademy.co.uk



Dear Parents and Carers,

11th September 2024

Holidays/Leave of Absence during term time

It is with reluctance that I have made the decision that, from September 1st 2024 onwards, in line with national advice, all holidays in term time (for statutory school age pupils) will be referred to Education Welfare for a penalty notice.

I have made this decision because the volume of unauthorised holidays have continued to grow with some families taking several breaks and long holidays in term time through the year. Goldington Green Academy is a highly successful school and we are continually trying to improve life chances for all our children. Our academic standards are rising but some children are missing huge swathes of school and not accessing the learning and core skills they need. This stands out when I analyse attendance against achievement; those pupils whose attendance falls below 91% are not getting a fair and equal access to their educational entitlement. Our whole school attendance remains 1.5%, lower than it consistently was pre pandemic, and in the main that is due to this high volume of holidays in term time.

The penalty for unauthorised leaves of absence are set by the government (and subject to increase in the future):

From August 2024, the fine for school absences across the country will be **£80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days**, or **£160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days**. This rate is in line with inflation and is the first increase since 2012. Please note that this also applies to parents who are not residing together.

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.

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

If you're prosecuted and attend court because your child hasn't been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500.

This money is retained by the local authority and the school does not receive any part of it - this is not being done to boost school funds just to increase attendance.

Whilst I understand that it is hard with the cost of holidays going up so much at key times, please do consider your future plans for trips.

Thank you for your understanding.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C Skingsley
Headteacher



From the smallest seeds, to the tallest trees, always aiming higher; Give, Grow and Aspire