



Children, Schools and Families
Directorate

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Children's Social Care

**FOR PARENTS WITH CHILDREN
ATTENDING TOWER HAMLETS SCHOOLS**

Attendance & Welfare Service
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Dear Parent / Carer,

Tower Hamlets Policy on No Holidays in School Term Time

Tower Hamlets local authority has a very clear policy that holidays should be taken in school holiday periods when children can enjoy them without their education being affected. Children are not permitted to take holidays in term time and schools are advised not to agree to any applications for holidays or leave in term time. This is because absence from school is disruptive to children's education and affects their achievement.

The "no holidays in term time" policy is published in the Starting School and Moving to a Tower Hamlets Secondary School brochures to ensure that parents are aware that holidays and visits to family must be taken in the 13 weeks of the year when schools are closed.

It is very important to appreciate that if you take your children out of school they could lose their school places and may never be able to return to that particular school. This can be very difficult and distressing for children as their relationships with friends and teachers are broken. In addition, you may have to take your children to different schools which are some distance from the family home. The Authority strongly advises parents not to risk this happening.

There is no right to have time off for holidays in term time. Parents are advised not to arrange holidays in term time as schools will not agree to them. Holidays that are not agreed by schools are marked in the register as **truancy** and are reported to the Attendance and Welfare Service. Children aged 5 to 16 must attend school regularly and punctually by law. If they do not, parents and carers can be prosecuted and face being fined up to £1,000 each (Section 444(1) Education Act 1996).

Please contact the Attendance and Welfare Service on 020-7364 3450 if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

David Hough
Principal Attendance & Welfare Advisor