

If you wish to discuss the matter further in relation to your child, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Perth & Kinross Council is aware that there are other issues in relation to pupil absence from learning which cover more than family holidays.

For more information please contact:

Education & Children's Services
Perth & Kinross Council
Pullar House
35 Kinnoull Street
PERTH
PH1 5GD

Tel 01738 476200
Fax 01738 476210
Email ecsschools@pkc.gov.uk

If you or someone you know would like a copy of this document in another language or format, (on occasion, only a summary of the document will be provided in translation), this can be arranged by contacting the Customer Service Centre on 01738 475000.

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(PKC Design Team - 2013913)



Pupil Absence From Learning



Family Holiday Information Leaflet

January 2010



Family Holidays

Over the last few years, most of our schools have noticed an increase in the number of pupils absent from schools arising from family holidays. Perth & Kinross Council is aware that this happens for a number of reasons:

- *parents are unable to take time off during school holidays;*
- *childcare arrangements;*
- *cheaper holidays during term time.*

Our headteachers, however, have noticed that this change can have a number of adverse effects not only on the pupils who have been absent but sometimes on the class or whole school. These can be:

- *an effect on individual pupil attainment and achievement, in pupils who are on holiday on a regular basis;*
- *disruption in class when pupils return;*
- *disruption to teachers' assessment and testing schedules;*
- *difficulty for pupils reintegrating back into school;*
- *behavioural problems if pupils get behind in course work;*

- *the need for remedial work to be set;*
- *an effect on the general ethos of the school.*

As a result, the Education & Children's Services Committee agreed the following policy:

Family holidays will be marked in school as an unauthorised absence. This will be done even if you have told the school you intend to take your child on holiday. No school work will be given, although some schools may consider giving you information about what will be covered during the absence.

In addition, the Committee agreed that:

*Extended visits 'overseas to relatives or extended absence in relation to children of travelling people will be marked as an authorised absence. Extended is defined as a period of more than **four** weeks'.*

You should note that Perth & Kinross Council is not stopping you from taking your child out of school for a family holiday. It is, however, bringing to your attention that this can have a detrimental effect on your child's education.