



TRURO LEARNING ACADEMY

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

You may recall that we wrote to you last term regarding requests for leave during term time.

At present, the Government does not support parents taking children out of school unless the school agrees this is appropriate under 'exceptional circumstances'. We ask that any request for leave should be made in writing to the Head teacher using the school's request form. **Where this leave is not granted, and you decide to take your child out of school, then you are committing an offence under the Education Act 1996.**

To provide further guidance to you Truro Learning Academy will consider referring the matter to Cornwall Council in the following circumstances:

- *The request for leave is over 5 school days*
- *Where the child has already had a period of leave for "holiday" during the current academic year.*
- *Where no leave request was made and Truro Learning Academy subsequently become aware that the child is on holiday.*
- *For passport renewals where you are planning to travel to your home country for over five school days (and the passport could be renewed within the UK at an embassy).*

Following a request from Truro Learning Academy, Cornwall Council, as the issuing officer, may decide to take legal action against you. A penalty notice can be issued by Cornwall Council under Section 444A and 444B of the Education Act 1996. This carries a fine of £60 if paid within 21 days or £120 if paid after this but within 28 days. **Fines are issued per parent/carer, per child.**

Failure to pay the penalty notice may result in Court action. Persistent absences not authorised by the school may result in a prosecution in the Magistrates Court, **leading to fines up to £2,500** and/or custodial sentences. The Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court.

You are welcome to contact Mrs Anne Binding to discuss any concerns you may have regarding this or if you feel you would like advice or support in helping your child attend more regularly.

Truro Learning Academy is committed to maximising the education of all its pupils and aims to work with parents to ensure this can be achieved.

Yours sincerely

Mr Dan Hadley
Head of Academy

