

Governors statement - Wellfield Middle School.

Recently there have been requests for pupils to be absent from school during term time.

At Wellfield Middle School we are aware that this topic is one for much debate and opinions are divided.

On one side of the argument it can be considered as an important part of work life balance and spending time with your children, especially if the trip was educational.

On the other side of the fence though there are claims that even one day off can be disruptive and that term time holidays have a lasting impact on learning. Coupled with the observation that if one parent is allowed to do so then others will follow suit.

Therefore for clarity purposes and to ensure all parents know the Governors want to issue the following statement:

“At Wellfield Middle School we are of the opinion that taking a child out of school without there being exceptional circumstances or illness will be seen as unauthorised absenteeism. In the first instance the School have the responsibility of all its’ pupils and their education. This is in line with the Department of Education guidance that can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence/overview>

Although each case will be considered individually there is a moral and sound judgement that term time holidays have an impact on the pupils learning.

If there are any unauthorised holidays the school will then review the pupils attendance records and if necessary take the matter further with the local education authority and will also consider fines for those parents. In the case of any unresolved matters there is a School complaint process and details of that can be obtained from the office.”

Alex Giles

Chair of Governors

Please consider the attached attendance record stats.

Is a term time holiday really worth it?

If your child has between 96% and 100% attendance at Key Stage 3 and 4, they have a 73% chance of gaining 5 GCSEs at grade 9-4 (formerly grade A-C) including Maths and English.*

If your child has between 80% and 90% attendance at Key Stage 3 and 4, they have a 35% chance of gaining 5 GCSEs at grade 9-4 (formerly grade A-C) including Maths and English.*

Those who leave school without 5 GCSEs at grade 9-4 including Maths and English will, on average, earn at least 20% less than those that do throughout their lifetime.

