



DCYP Bites

Revised on 25/08/20

Term time absence for Service children

Term Time Absence

DCYP wrote to head teachers with advice on when absence of Service children during term time should be granted (see letter at link below).

As with all children at school, the decision on whether to authorise term-time holidays for the children of Service personnel sits solely with the head teacher of their school.

To assist head teachers in making their decisions on applications for absence during term time, Unit Commanding Officers and their Welfare staff will be able to provide advice, verification and endorsement as required.

Term time absence advice:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/729654/20180618-TTA_Advice_to_Head_Teachers_FINAL.pdf

Examples of exceptional circumstances which may apply to Service parent/s:

- Preparing for or returning from operational tours
- Shift pattern only allows leave to be taken during term time
- Injury/Bereavement

To assist head teachers in making their decisions on absence applications, Unit Commanding Officers and their Welfare staff will be able to provide advice, verification and endorsement as required.

If head teachers are unsure how to make contact with the relevant Armed Forces unit, they should contact the MOD's Directorate Children and Young People at DCYP-DCYP-Mailbox@mod.gov.uk.

Term Time Absence Guidance DIN refers and can be accessed via the Defence Intranet.

Since September 2013, by law, head teachers are only able to grant requests for leave during term time in "exceptional" circumstances.