



Caring, Sharing, Preparing for Life

School Lane
St Erth
HAYLE
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Headteacher: Mrs N Rogers
www.st-erth.cornwall.sch.uk

Dear Parent

Here at St Erth School, we recognise that there are occasions when it is appropriate to authorise an absence, such as when a pupil is genuinely too ill to attend school or has a medical appointment that cannot be taken outside of school hours. However, it is the school's policy not to authorise leave of absence for term time holidays unless there are exceptional circumstances. The Government does not support parents taking children out of school unless the school has authorised such leave as being due to 'exceptional circumstances'. Any request for leave should be made in writing to the Headteacher using the school's request form.

If you still decide to take your child out of school, without authorisation, you will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996. We may refer the matter to Cornwall Council who may decide to take legal action against you. A penalty notice can be issued 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. 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 the school 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. St Erth School is committed to maximising the education of all its pupils and aims to work with parents to ensure this can be achieved.

Yours sincerely

Niki Rogers
Head Teacher



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