

Early Help Service

Absence due to religious observance

Information for parents and carers



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA



City of Westminster

Introduction

All schools in Kensington and Chelsea and the City of Westminster acknowledge and welcome the multi-faith nature of our community and recognise that some families' important religious festivals may fall outside school holidays.

Government guidance says a pupil can be absent 'on a day exclusively set aside for religious observance by the religious body to which the parent belongs'.

But...

Attending school regularly and on time is also important and is a parent's legal responsibility.

If a child misses five days each term over all the years he or she is at school, this is equivalent to missing one whole school year!

Good attendance leads to better grades in examinations and better chances of getting a job when leaving school.

Being away from school can mean social relationships are disrupted.

How you can help

- When your child joins a school, talk to school staff about your family's beliefs.
- Think carefully whether your child really needs to miss school for religious reasons.
- Ask the school staff as early as possible for the day you would like your child to have off.
- Talk to your child's teacher or teachers about what work your child may have missed and ask them to help your child catch up.

So...

To try and make sure your children have the best possible chance of achieving their potential by being in school as much as possible, no more than one day in any term will be authorised for any individual occasion of religious observance and no more than three days in any academic year.

If you have any queries about the information in this leaflet, please discuss with school staff.