

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

DATE: 16 APRIL 2009

RE: Holidays in Term Time and Extended Leave

Context:

Holidays in Term Time and Extended Leave

- Historically, Walsall has had high levels of absence, due to the effects of Term Time Holidays and Extended leave. In response to this, Walsall developed a guidance, which was launched and distributed to all Walsall Schools, in 2006
- A working group was established representing relevant partners
- Walsall applies a sanction of issuing Penalty Notices for unauthorised holiday
- Discounts for families taking holidays during School Holiday periods were negotiated and supported by Co-op Travel and Going Places.
- Revised guidance was released by DCSF in June 2008, to which Walsall responded by developing new guidance for our authority
- Early indications showed that Head Teachers across the Walsall Borough expressed a need for consistent approach to the issue of Term Time Holidays and Extended Leave
- A working party has been formed and is meeting to discuss the development of a new guidance, which we anticipate will be completed and ready for use as from September 2009
- As a result of our strategies in Walsall, Holiday absence has reduced and is now broadly in line with national figures.

Holiday Absence Data – 2007-08

Secondary Schools – **14,605 DAYS LOST TO COMBINED HOLIDAY ABSENCE**

	H – Agreed holiday absence	G – Agreed extended leave	F – Holiday absence not agreed (unauthorised)	Combined holiday absence
Walsall	0.45%	0.0017%	0.13%	0.58%
England	0.38%	0.01%	0.10%	0.49%

Primary Schools – 22,056.5 DAYS LOST TO COMBINED HOLIDAY ABSENCE

	H – Agreed holiday absence	G - Agreed	F – Holiday absence not agreed(unauthorised)	Combined holiday absence
Walsall	0.67%	0.03%	0.06%	0.78%
England	0.69%	0.02%	0.09%	0.80%

Report Author:

Sue Wedgwood

Walsall Children's Services Serco

01922 686212