



FAMILY DAYS ABSENT DURING TERM TIME

Over the last few years, DECD has noticed an increase in the number of students absent from schools during term time due to 'family' reasons.

There are many reasons. It may be, for example: family emergencies, going shopping, interstate visitors, or family holidays. At these times, parents are asked to consider what impact the time away from school will have on the student's learning.

With any absence, disruption to the ongoing learning program occurs, which is step-by-step and increasing in difficulty. When a student has missed sections of new learning and practice time, it can cause anxiety about being able to catch up to the rest of the class.

While there is much to be experienced when students are on holiday during term time, these adverse effects are increased. They are:

- Gaps in student knowledge and achievement
- Interruptions to friendships and social groups
- Incomplete assessment results

If parents are planning to go on holidays during term time, you need to apply for an exemption before the holiday begins. There is a form for you to sign, so making an appointment to see the Principal, Carolyn Clinton, well before the day you are leaving will mean this record of absence can be completed.

Although a learning program isn't provided, you can request information about what would be covered. You can also talk to the class teacher about activities your child might do. There could be a written journal of daily events or a photographic journal; research about places visited; gathering information about the history/ culture/ religion/ geography. Students are encouraged to share this new knowledge when they return.

Rosie Bannister
School Counsellor

