

It is not usually a good reason to be off school to go on holiday with your family.

If you are off school without a good reason, you might have to go to a children's panel to tell them why you are not at school. The panel can ask the social work department to help make sure you go to school. Your parent(s) might also have to go to court to explain why you are not at school.

If you need more advice or information, see the back page for details.

This leaflet was written by the Education Law

Unit. You can contact us at :



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You can get more advice from:

Schoolhouse : 0870 745 0967

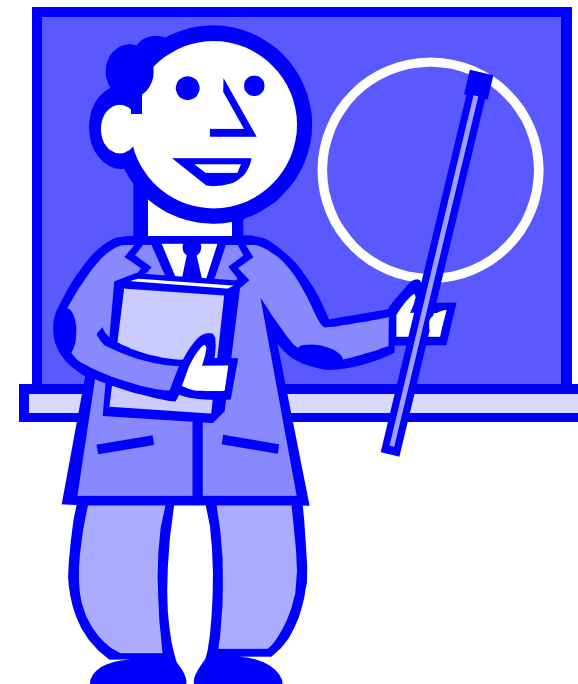
www.schoolhouse.org.uk

Enquire : 0845 123 2303

Scottish Child Law Centre

0800 328 8970 (for under 18s)

Do I have to go to school?



This leaflet gives you the answers.

Do I have to go to school ?

This leaflet is for children and young people who need extra help at school. It is also available in Braille, audio and other languages.

Not everyone goes to school

Every child between the ages of 5 and 16 has the right to go to school, but not all children are educated at school.

Some children are educated in hospital if they are not well, and some children are educated at home by their parent(s).

Your parent(s) get to decide how they want to educate you, but they should listen to what you want too.

What if I don't go to school ?

If your parent(s) decide to send you to school then you have to go there. If you want to leave school and be educated at home instead, you have to get permission from the Council first.

If you miss school and there is not a good reason for being absent you and your parent(s) might get in trouble.

The law says that it is okay to miss school if you have a good reason. These things can be a good reason:

- if you are ill;
- if the school bus doesn't turn up for you;
- if it is a special festival in your religion;
- if you are at a family funeral or wedding;
- if you are at the doctor or the dentist.

Being excluded from school is not usually a good reason.