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Aspire Academy Trust

Unit 20

St Austell Business Park

St Austell

PL25 4FD

September 2023

**Leave of Absence**

Dear Parent/Carer

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, has a medical appointment that cannot be taken outside of school hours or a request for leave has been agreed in exceptional circumstances.

However, the Government does not support parents taking children out of school unless the school agrees this is appropriate under ‘exceptional circumstances’. Any request for leave should be made in writing to the Head of School using the school’s request form.

If your child is absent from school without authorisation, you will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry 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 legal action.

Absence not authorised by the school may result in a prosecution in the Magistrates’ Court under Section 444(1) or Section 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996, leading to a fine of up to

£2,500 and/or a custodial sentence. Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court.

‘Parent’ as set out in Section 576 of the Education Act 1996, defines parent to include: natural parents, whether they are married or not; any person or body who has parental responsibility for a child (as defined by the Children Act 1989) and any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child. Having care of a child means a person with whom a child lives and who looks after a child, irrespective of what their relationship is with said child.

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. Aspire Academy Trust is committed to maximising the education of all its pupils and aims to work with parents to ensure this can be achieved.

The decision to submit a request for the issue of a Penalty Notice will be considered when a child’s attendance is deemed to be ‘not regular’. The definition of ‘not regular’ in this instance is when it is below the threshold set Aspire Academy Trust. For all Aspire schools, this attendance threshold is set at 96%, in line with national attendance data. In the Autumn Term, a child’s attendance for the previous academic year will be considered before deciding on a course of action. From January onwards, the decision will be based on attendance data from the current academic year.

Yours sincerely

V French

Head of School



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Registered Office: Aspire Academy Trust, Unit 20, St Austell Business Park, St Austell, PL25 4FD [www.aspireacademytrust.org](http://www.aspireacademytrust.org/)

***APPLICATION BY PARENT/CARER* (to be completed by each parent/carer)**

If you consider an absence during term time to be an exceptional circumstance, please complete this form and return it to the school Office at least 15 school days before the date you wish to remove your child from school.

**Student Name:** ………………………………**DOB:** …………….**Year/Tutor Group:** ………………………..

**Home Address:** …………………………………………………………………………………………………….

……………………………………………………………………**Post Code:** ……………………………………

**Name of Parent/Carer completing this form:** ………………………………………………………………

**First day of absence**: ……………………… **Date of return to school**: ……………………………….

# If leaving your home address before the first day of absence, please provide the date on which you will leave ………………………

**Total number of days missed**: …………..**days Reason for absence:** ……………………………………

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I un*derstand that if the absence request is unauthorised the school may request that Cornwall Council issue a Penalty Notice. I understand that a Penalty Notice is issued to each liable parent/carer of each child taken out of school and that this carries a fine of £60 if paid within 21 days, increasing to £120 if paid within 28 days. I understand that if I do not pay the fine, it may result in legal action being taken against me.* ***I understand that parents have a duty to ensure their child’s regular attendance at school and failure to do so is an offence under Section 444(1) and Section 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996.***

Signed…………………………………………………………………………Dated ………………………………

# Please inform us if you have a child in another Aspire Academy Trust school – we will need to contact the school to discuss the absence request. Please note, we will need to share information about your child with the other school.

Name of child ……………………………………….Year ……………School………………………………

*(Please ensure you give at least 15 school days’ notice of the proposed absence)*

***Below to be completed by the school:***

FAO – Head of School

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| %  Current | % Last Year | Comments |
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