

The municipality makes agreements with the Hague Regional school boards about the school holidays.

12. Attendance

From the day that your child becomes 5 years of age, he/she is bound by law on compulsory education and obliged to be in school during every school day. The only reasons for absence are sickness or authorised absence. In cases of unauthorised absence, the school is obliged to inform the city council's compulsory education officer. This protocol sets out how the school deals with this.

Authorised absence:

Procedure 'Absence through sickness'

The school should be informed of every absence due to illness, at least on the first school day of the sickness. You should send an email to the school to report that your child is ill before 09.30, with the child's name and class. The email should be sent to: info@iwsth.org

- If the absence is longer than three days; the school will contact the parents to discuss the situation and to explain the school policy.
- If a child is absent for longer than two days without any notification of sickness, the procedure 'suspected unauthorised absence' will be activated (see below).

Doctor's statement:

- A doctor's statement is required if your child is absent for longer than 10 days.
- A doctor's statement is also required if a child has been absent due to illness more than four times in a year. This should be submitted after the fourth sickness absence.
- If no doctor's statement has been submitted, you will be asked to contact the school doctor.

Absence on the basis of exceptions in the law on compulsory education

Parents of children who are bound by the law on compulsory education are obliged to adhere to the set holiday periods. Taking extra time off, going on extended vacations, or going on holiday during school time is not permitted. This is explained in the law on compulsory education.

Sometimes an exception may be made. You can submit your request for absence by filling in the request-for-absence form. A request for absence should be made at least 6 weeks in advance of the requested absence.

Profession of parents (art. 11f of the law on compulsory education)

Additional leave can be requested if a child, because of the profession of (one of) the parents, cannot go on holiday with them for periods of 2 consecutive weeks within the regular school holidays. This needs to be supported by written evidence. The leave should not be longer than 10 school days per school year and may not be in the first 2 weeks of the school year. If the family has already had a joint holiday, no more leave can be requested in that school year.

Attention: requests for leave based on professional activities are seldom granted because providing proof is very complex. Please ensure that you submit your request 6 weeks in advance of your leave.

Religious reasons

For celebrations or obligations on the basis of religion or religious beliefs, special leave may be requested. In this case, a notification by the parents, at least 2 days before the day of absence, is sufficient. Absence will be granted for 1 day per occasion.

Important circumstances (art. 11g of the law on compulsory education)

Important circumstances are exceptional circumstances that occur outside the parents and/or child's control that prevents the child from attending school. If it is less than 10 school days, the school director can decide to grant the leave. If it is for more than 10 days, the compulsory education officer decides. Every school has its own compulsory education officer.

Kindergarten Attendance

One or two free day(s)

For some children in Kindergarten a whole week of school can be tiring, especially in the beginning. For those children, we will permit a three or four-day week, allowing up to two days of rest at home until their 6th birthday.

For one free day a week, you're not required to request permission, but you must inform the school principle.

If your child has a need of this, you could extend the exemption with a maximum of one additional day. You may keep your child at home for a maximum of 2 days a week until his/her 6th birthday. For two days, you need special permission from the school principle, which will consult the teacher and the Special needs coordinator to come to a decision. This exemption is only meant to prevent over-taxation.

Keep in mind that it is in the interest of your child that he/she gets used to a full school week as soon as possible.

Unauthorised absence

If your child is not at school without having a valid reason, a notification of suspected unauthorised absence will be sent to the compulsory education officer through the automated registration system of the city council. The compulsory education officer may start an investigation and even produce a warrant. This measure may lead to a fine.