



Graaf Floristraat 56, 3021CJ Rotterdam.
010 448 2266.
l.boyle@blijberg.nl

SPECIAL LEAVE REGULATIONS

WHEN IS YOUR CHILD ENTITLED TO SPECIAL LEAVE?

**IN THIS BROCHURE YOU CAN READ WHAT IS MEANT BY
“SPECIAL LEAVE” AND HOW TO APPLY FOR IT.**

YOUR CHILD’S FUTURE

Education is very important for the future of your child. It is therefore of the greatest importance that your child attends all lessons at school. Missing lessons today may result in missing opportunities in the future.

The Dutch Government has laid down in the “Compulsory Education Act” that every child has to attend school.

It is the task of parents to see to it that their child attends school every day.

This means that your child is never allowed to stay away from school for no reason whatsoever.

For Special Leave there are some regulations. These regulations apply in the following cases:

- . RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS
- . HOLIDAYS OUTSIDE REGULAR SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
- . OTHER IMPORTANT EVENTS

The municipal council of Rotterdam has decided, with the consent of all school boards, to strictly enforce these rules without making any exceptions.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Every child in The Netherlands is free from school on a number of Christian holidays. In order to allow children to celebrate certain non-Christian feasts, the following Religious holidays are allowed.

- . for Hindus: Divali and Holyfeast
- . for Muslims: Iedul-ad-ha and Iedul-fitr
- . for Jews: Rosj Hasjana, Jom Kipper, Soekkot, Sjeminiatseret, Pesach and Sjawoe'ot

If the Religious holiday is not listed above you are not allowed to keep your child at home.

HOLIDAYS OUTSIDE THE REGULAR SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

No leave will be granted for reasons such as:

- . Cheaper holidays in the off- season
- . Holidays paid for by others
- . Collecting relatives
- . Midweek or weekend holidays
- . Family have not been on holiday for years
- . Tickets have already been bought
- . Travelling with other people
- . Another child is free already

According to the Compulsory Education Act, holidays outside the regular school holidays, including visits to relatives in the country of origin, shall only be granted **once**.

For families who cannot go on holiday during the school holidays due to a parent's specific profession, a child is granted leave for 10 days once a year. **These days should not fall in the first two weeks of a school year.**

"Professions of a specific nature", refer for instance to a father working on a ship, who will not be ashore during school holidays. An employer's certificate must be submitted with the request and should clearly state that the special leave is requested for the aforementioned reasons.

OTHER IMPORTANT EVENTS

There may be other important events that require special leave;

- . **Serious illness of a close relative:**
A pupil is granted special leave for maximum 10 days.
(A doctor's certificate should be provided.)
- . **Death of a close relative:**
In country of origin maximum 5 days.
- . **Family wedding:**
In country of origin maximum 5 days.
(A copy of the invitation must be attached to the special leave form.)
- . **12 ½, 25th, 40th 50th wedding anniversary:**
1 school day.
- . **Moving house:**

1 school day.

New baby:

1 school day.

Birthdays of relatives or friends are not important enough to allow you keep your child at home. This also applies when a grandfather celebrates his 85th birthday in the country of origin. Your child **will not** be entitled to special leave.

PERMISSION FOR SPECIAL LEAVE

If you wish to apply for special leave for your child, please collect a form from the Head of school.

Submit your application to the Head of school as early as possible.

If you apply for extra holidays you should submit the application at least two months in advance.

If the principal decides to reject your application and you keep your child away from school, you will be reported to the Leerplicht. You will then incur a fine.

IF YOU DO NOT AGREE WITH THE DECISION

If you do not agree with the decision, you can appeal in writing within 6 weeks, to the authority that dealt with your application.

The final decision will then be sent to you within 6 weeks.

If you still do not agree you can appeal to the District Court Rotterdam. However, there are charges attached to such legal proceedings. It is advisable to ask for legal advice before starting such proceedings.

QUESTIONS

In case you still have questions you can always speak to the head of school for more information.

You can also contact Jeugd and Onderwijs by email:

leerplicht@rotterdam.nl.