

### Can I go on holiday outside of the scheduled school holidays?

Going on holiday outside of the scheduled school holiday periods is only permitted if the specific nature of your profession prevents you from booking a holiday according to the standard schedule. You need to demonstrate this with an employer's declaration. Applications for holiday leave must be submitted to the school principal eight weeks in advance. Holiday leave is permitted once per school year for a maximum of 10 days and may not fall in the first two weeks of the school year.

### What can I do if my child is not enjoying school?

It's important that your child feels comfortable and welcome at school. This is why maintaining good contact with the school and attending parent-teacher evenings are so important. If you notice that your child feels unsafe at school or doesn't want to attend school for other reasons, please contact your child's teacher or principal. For questions about parenting or problems at school, you can also contact the Core Team members (Kernteamleden) at school. The school can provide you with the contact information. Truancy, arriving late and frequently reporting ill often begin in primary school and can later become underlying causes of dropping out of school.

### QUESTIONS?

Truancy officers can be contacted on weekdays from 09.00 - 17.00.  
Tel. 015-3626262  
Email: [leerplicht@pijnacker-nootdorp.nl](mailto:leerplicht@pijnacker-nootdorp.nl)

**HOLIDAY SCHEDULES CAN BE REQUESTED AT YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL AND ARE ALSO LISTED IN THE SCHOOL INFORMATION GUIDE (SCHOOLGIDS).**



# Starting school and compulsory education



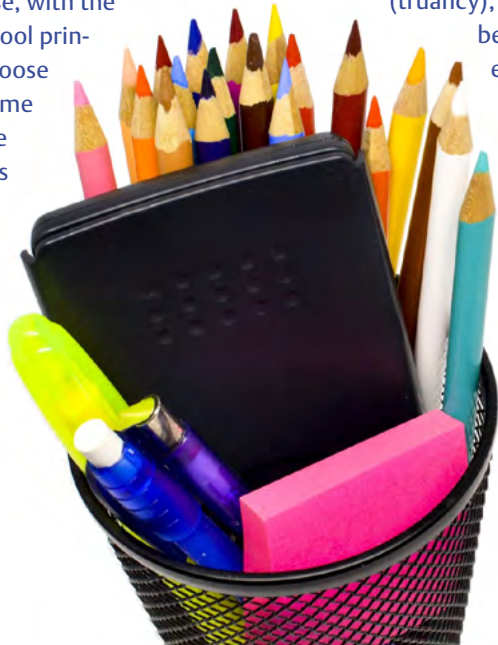
- Each child in the Netherlands has the right to an education
- This right is enforced by the Compulsory Education Act (Leerplichtwet)
- The rules imposed by the Compulsory Education Act apply once your child has started school and is legally required to attend school

*Read more about mandatory education in this folder.*

## When is my child legally required to attend school?

Most children attend day-care or preschool before the age of four. This is a fun way to prepare them for kindergarten. Once children have turned four years old, they may begin primary school. Your child is still considered a pre-schooler and attending school is not yet legally required. Mandatory education begins on the first day of the month after the month that your child turned five (if a child turned five on 24 April, mandatory education would begin on 1 May). Your child is then legally required to attend school five days per week. Education is important for your child's development. Your child gains knowledge and skills while attending school and working together with other children. This forms the foundation for independently creating one's place in society.

Your child is not allowed to be absent from school by staying at home or arriving late. For some five-year-olds, a full school week is too long. In this case, with the permission of the school principal, parents may choose to keep their child home for a maximum of five hours per week. If this is still too much for the child, the school principal may also allow five additional hours to prevent overburdening your child. Once your child has turned six years old, he or she must attend the full school week.



## Parents'/caregivers' obligations

Parents/caregivers must ensure that children are registered at school and are attending school. The school also expects that children bring the following things to school:

- Fruit and a drink.
- Sandwich and a drink for lunch.
- Sports attire, gym shoes and a towel.

## School's obligations

The school must provide a safe and positive learning environment. If your child cannot stay at his or her current school, the school must make efforts to find a different school. The school is also required to report unauthorised truancy to the Education Executive Agency (DUO - Dienst Uitvoering Onderwijs).

## What does the truancy officer (leerplichtambtenaar) do?

If your child is repeatedly absent or late (truancy), the truancy officer will become involved. This is to ensure that your child does not fall behind in school. The truancy officer will look into the cause and reason for the truancy. The truancy officer will meet with the parents/caregivers to resolve the situation together. Depending on the outcome of this meeting, the truancy officer may take further action. In some cases, a report is presented

to the courts. A judge will then determine which measures are suitable. This can be a fine, study order, parenting classes or other assistance.

## What is unauthorised truancy?

Truancy occurs when children are absent from school without permission. Arriving late is also unauthorised truancy. Truancy in the period surrounding school holidays is known as 'holiday absenteeism'. This is strictly monitored because starting and completing a school term together is important for your child and for the school.

## What should I do if my child is ill?

If your child is ill, he or she does not need to attend school. Illness must always be reported to the school directly (via telephone). If your child or family member falls ill during a holiday abroad and your child misses school as a result, the parent/guardian must provide a doctor's certificate from the country where the holiday took place.

## Can my child receive additional leave?

If you would like to request an additional leave of absence, you must contact the school principal.

## This includes:

- A legal obligation which cannot be conducted outside of teaching hours.
- Moving: maximum of 1 day.
- Attending the wedding of a 2nd or 3rd degree relation, depending on the location of the wedding ceremony.



- Serious illness of parent or relative: maximum 10 days.
- Death of parent or relative: maximum 5 days for 1st degree relations, 2 days for 2nd degree relations and 1 day for 3rd and 4th degree relations.
- The 12½-year, 25th, 40th, 50th, and 60th wedding anniversary of the parents or grandparents: 1 day.
- Guideline of one day's leave per religious holiday.

## The following situations do not qualify for additional leave:

- Visiting family abroad.
- Vacation during a less expensive period or due to a specific promotion.
- Vacation outside of scheduled school holidays due to lack of alternative booking options.
- An invitation from family or friends to go on holiday outside of the scheduled school holidays.
- Earlier departure or later return due to the (traffic) rush.
- Days off for a child because other children in the family have an additional day off.