

Question 6

How can I request a day off? And who decides?

You need to submit a written leave application to the school principal. You can request the application form at the school. The principal decides on a leave application up to ten school days. The principal can always ask for advice from the school attendance officer. If it concerns more than ten school days, the school attendance officer will decide. Leave applications are always assessed individually. If you disagree with the decision, you may lodge an objection or appeal.

Examples of situations that do not allow for (an) extra day(s) off:

- family visit abroad;
- holiday in a cheap period or with a special offer;
- lack of booking facilities during school holidays;
- earlier or later return due to (traffic) problems;
- leave for a child because other children in the family are already in holidays;
- holiday spread;
- travelling together;
- parental leave, e.g. use of a life-course savings scheme.

Question 7

What are the consequences of unauthorised school absence?

The school attendance officer investigates what is going on after a report of unauthorised school absence and makes agreements about the school attendance. Children from 12 years and older are, in addition to their parents, called to account for their absence. From this age, they are also responsible for going to school. During an interview with you and your child, the officer will look closely at the cause of the absence and agreements will be made to end the school absence. If agreements are not kept by the child, the school attendance officer can refer the pupil to HALT. In extreme cases, a school attendance officer can file an official report or send a notification of concern

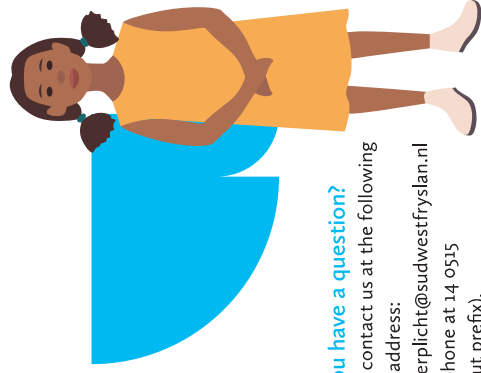
to Veilig Thuis Fryslân or to the Dutch Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service. This happens, for example, if they do not cooperate in finding a solution. After an official report, the Ministry of Justice assesses which measure is imposed. This could be extra help or a fine. The aim of the measure is always to get the pupil back to school.

Question 8

18 years and no basic qualification?

If adolescents have not yet obtained a basic qualification (diploma at secondary education level) on their eighteenth birthday, the RMC counsellor (Dutch Regional Reporting and Coordination Function) can help them.

Up to the age of 23, the RMC counsellor can think along with and give advice on finding a suitable training course, the right care programme or a combination thereof so that a basic qualification can still be obtained or a suitable job can be found.



Do you have a question?

Please contact us at the following e-mail address:
rmc-leerplicht@sudwestfryslan.nl
or by phone at 14 0515
(without prefix).



Compulsory Education Frequently Asked Questions





Education is important to function well in society. With a good education and a diploma, you will be in a stronger position. That is why compulsory education, which also includes the compulsory qualification, is laid down by law. In this brochure, you can read which agreements, rights and obligations apply to you, your child, the school and the school attendance officer of Südwest-Fryslân.

Question 1

What does the School Attendance Officer do?

The most important task of the school attendance officer is to protect the right and duty to education. In case of unauthorised absence (e.g. truancy and being late), the school attendance officer invites you and your child (from the age of 12) for an interview. During the interview, the officer will look closely at the cause of the absence. If there are underlying problems, we will look for an appropriate course of action together. The school attendance officer does this in cooperation with you and your child, the school and aid agencies (such as the Gebiedsteam).

If parents and pupils do not comply with the agreements (i.e. with the Compulsory Education Act), the school attendance officer can impose a sanction. In addition, the school attendance officer advises young people, parents and schools about school and career choices and leave applications.

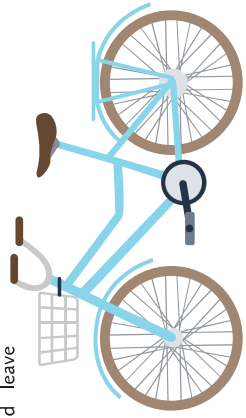
Question 2

What is expected of the school?

Schools do everything they can to ensure good education, a safe and pleasant learning environment and a good absence policy.

In addition, schools are obliged to:

- register pupils and deregister them on departure and pass this on to the compulsory education administration of the Municipality.
- The school is only allowed to deregister a pupil of compulsory school age if they have obtained a basic qualification or if they are registered at another school;
- try to find another school if your child cannot stay at the current school;
- pass on unauthorised absence or a questionable sickness report to the compulsory education administration of the Municipality;
- report your child to the Municipality if they leave school without a basic qualification.



Question 3

What is expected of parents/guardians?

Parents want their child to have a pleasant education. That is why it is important that you have good contact with the school and attend the parent-teacher meetings. If you think or notice that your child, for whatever reason, reluctantly goes to school or plays truant, you can discuss this with the teacher or mentor. Can't find a solution together? Then you can ask the school attendance officer for advice.

According to the Compulsory Education Act, you are obliged to:

- register your child in a school;
- ensure that your child attends the classes. Only if your child is ill, they are allowed to stay at home. In that case, you must inform the school immediately.

Question 4

Can my child have extra days off?

Does your child need to stay at home because of special circumstances? Then you need to submit a leave application to the school principal.

This could be, for example:

- moving house;
 - religious obligations;
 - marriage of relatives by blood or marriage;
 - celebration of a 12.5-, 25-, 40-, 50 or 60th wedding anniversary of parents or grandparents;
 - celebration of a 25-, 40 or 50th office anniversary of a parent or grandparent;
 - serious illness or death of relatives by blood or marriage;
 - so-called "other important circumstances".
- These are unexpected circumstances that cannot be postponed and are beyond the will of the parents.

If your child is absent without permission, this is a case of luxury absence. This can lead to the filing of an official report.

Compulsory Education = Right to Education

Your child is allowed to go to school from the age of four. Many children have been attending a kindergarten or nursery for a while before the age of four. In this way, they are prepared for primary school in a playful way. According to the law, children are obliged to attend school from the first day of school in the month after their fifth birthday. So if your child turns 5 on 10 October, they have to go to school from 1 November. Full compulsory school attendance ends at the end of the school year in which your child turns sixteen. This is followed by compulsory qualification up to the age of 18. Compulsory education is also a right to education, because every child in the Netherlands has the right to education.

Question 5

Can I go on holidays outside the school holidays?

No, that's not allowed, except in one situation. If the nature of the parents' profession makes it impossible to go on holidays with the family during school holidays, then so-called "extra leave" can be granted for a maximum of 10 consecutive school days.

The following rules apply:

- leave must be requested in writing from the school principal at least 8 weeks in advance;
- an employer's statement must be provided;
- the leave may only be granted once a year for a maximum of 10 consecutive school days;
- the leave may not fall during the first two weeks of the school year;
- it must be reasonably foreseeable (and/or demonstrated) that holidays in the school holidays will lead to insurmountable business and economic problems. Only the fact that a significant part of the turnover is achieved during the school holidays is insufficient.