



CASTLE MEAD
ACADEMY

Guide to Affordable Holiday Planning

Information for Families

**You can make family
memories without
missing school.**

**Family Holiday and
Education can work side
by side!**

We know how expensive holidays have become, and for many families, the difference in cost between travelling in term time and the school holidays can be huge, so we get why booking a getaway during the school term is a tempting option.

And we know that holidays are wonderful and absolutely offer new experiences, but they can't replace the curriculum specific teaching and continuity students receive in school, which is crucial for long-term success.

Even a short time away from school can lead to missed learning, gaps that are hard to fill, and increased pressure on your child later on. Especially in secondary school, where lessons build step by step, those missed days can quietly impact confidence, attainment, and even future choices.

So, how can we help?

This guide is here to help you enjoy meaningful, memorable holidays without the worry of falling behind at school.

The good news is... there are ways to enjoy a break together and stay within school holiday dates.

And, if you ever need advice or want help planning around school dates, our dedicated Attendance Team is always here to support you.



Our top money saving travel tips

Timing it just right

Look at the very start or end of school breaks. Prices often dip in:

- 📍 First week in the summer holidays (Leicester breaks up early!)
- 📍 Sometimes Oct, Feb, Easter and May holidays are not aligned with the rest of the country. So, there is some cheaper deals.
- 📍 Avoid bank holidays or public holidays e.g. Easter
- 📍 A difference of 2–3 days can sometimes save hundreds.

Be flexible with your destination

Instead of focusing on the same “big name” resorts:

- 📍 Consider quieter regions of popular countries
- 📍 Look at less tourist-heavy cities
- 📍 Try countries where your travel budget stretches further
Often, these places offer the same sunshine (or snow!) at a much lower price.

Travel mid-week, not over weekends

Flying on a Tuesday or Wednesday is typically cheaper than Saturday or Sunday flights.

Set Price Alerts for cheaper flights via comparison sites like Skyscanner or Google Flights to get notified when fares drop.







Compare airports

A different departure or arrival airport can significantly cut costs, even if it means a slightly longer drive or train journey from home or to your destination.

Explore family-friendly accommodation alternatives

Hotels aren't always the cheapest option. Compare:

-  holiday parks
-  self-catering apartments
-  home-swap platforms
-  B&Bs
-  campsites or glamping sites during summer



TIME TO TRAVEL

Self-catering can help you save on meals, too.

Book early or hang on for last-minute deals

Early-bird discounts can be huge. Flights often go on sale around 11 months in advance and booking as soon as they're released can save significantly, especially for peak periods. But if you're flexible about where you go, reputable late-deal sites can also offer impressive savings within the school holidays.

Check package holidays vs DIY trip building

Sometimes it's cheaper to build your own trip with separate flights and accommodation, and other times package deals undercut everything, and offer extra perks like upgrades or free breakfast. Package deals can often be great for "free child places," but ensure it covers flights/extras, not just the room.

Compare both.

Top tip: Aim for Black Friday, Cyber Monday, or January sales for major discounts on packages

Consider short breaks instead of week-long trips

A 3 or 4 day holiday can still feel like a proper escape, but at a much lower cost. And if you work around dates when we have inset days, you can often extend your holiday more cost effectively as you'll be travelling when others aren't.

Low-Cost Alternatives That Still Feel Like a Getaway





If a full holiday isn't feasible this year, you can still make special memories:

-  **City breaks** within the UK or just a short flight away
-  **Camping or glamping weekends**
-  **Budget-friendly coastal or countryside stays**
-  **Local day trips** that create the feeling of a “holiday at home”

These options avoid missed school days but still give families time to recharge and reconnect.

Family time matters. Budgets matter. And your child's education matters.

We know every family wants the best for their children. By avoiding term-time holidays, you're helping your child:

-  stay confident with their learning
-  avoid gaps that become stressful later
-  stay connected to friends and routines
-  keep their future options wide open

Every school day really does make a difference, and we appreciate everything you do to support your child's attendance.

Getting support from us for Attendance & Punctuality

If you have any questions, or need some extra help you can...

Visit our website

Our academy website has lots of helpful information and advice on Attendance and Punctuality at Castle Mead Academy.

Visit www.castle-tmet.uk

Contact our Attendance Team

We have a dedicated team at Castle Mead Academy who work with families to support positive attendance in the academy.

You can reach them by:

 Emailing Attendance@castle-tmet.uk

 Telephoning 0116 214 3150





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