

Compulsory Education in the Netherlands 'Leerplicht'

If you have just moved to the Netherlands with your child/children, it is important to take note of this rule. [The Compulsory Education Act 'Leerplicht'](#) requires all children between the ages of 5 and 16 residing in the Netherlands to attend school. This applies to children of all nationalities, including children of asylum seekers and internationals.

Though most children go to school when they turn four, they are not subject to compulsory education at that age. Compulsory education starts on the first day of the month after the child turns five. Parents or guardians who keep their child at home without informing the head of the school will be subject to lawful action by the state.

Can my child go on holiday beyond the school holidays?

When children reach the age of 5, they must go to school every school day. You cannot take them out of school to go on holiday. If you can't go on holiday during the school holidays because of your work, you can ask the head of the school for special permission. You can make this request once a year for up to 10 school days.

Permission for leave beyond the school holidays

The school may give you permission to take your child on holiday beyond the school holidays if:

- your job makes it impossible for you to take leave during the school holidays (for example, because your work is seasonal or has its busiest time in the school holidays);
- your holiday is not in the first two weeks after the end of the summer holiday;
- your holiday is no longer than 10 school days.

Asking for special permission

If you want to take your child on holiday beyond the school holidays, you must first ask permission from the head of the school. You must make your request in writing at least 8 weeks before the date when you want to go on holiday. You must also give the school a statement from your employer explaining why you cannot go on holiday at any other time. The head then decides whether to give permission. If you have asked for more than 10 days leave, the decision is made by the school attendance officer.

Objecting if you do not get permission

If you do not get permission to take your child on holiday beyond the school holidays, you can submit an objection in writing to the person who made the decision. This is usually the head of the school.

Leave for special occasions

You can also request leave so your child can attend special family occasions such as weddings and funerals.

When can my child be exempted from school?

In other exceptional cases, the child also can be exempted from regular school attendance for the following reasons (if certain conditions are met):

- personal circumstances
- disease
- applications for leave due to religion or belief
- wedding
- funeral

A broader clarification is [listed here](#).

Who monitors if students fulfil the Compulsory Education Act?

There is a Compulsory Education Officer 'Leerplichtambtenaar' from every municipality who keeps track of absenteeism. All schools must report the absence of a student if it exceeds 16 hours within a 4-week period to the [Education Authority DUO](#) .

Do you have more questions? Contact the Student Affairs Department 'Leerlingzaken' in your municipality, or go to the [Government of the Netherlands 'Overheid' website](#) for more information (in Dutch).

bron: [Can my child go on holiday beyond the school holidays? | Government.nl](#)