

National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom

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When replying please
refer to: GC-33027.B
6 September 2018

To whom it may concern

Dear Sir/Madam,

Among your student population are one or more members of the Bahá'í Faith, on whose behalf we respectfully request permission for them to be excused from school on the Bahá'í Holy Days. These special days are associated with significant events in the lives of Bahá'u'lláh, the Prophet-Founder of the Bahá'í Faith, and the Báb, its Herald. For the school year beginning September 2018, these dates are as follows:

2018

| | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| 9 November | Birth of the Báb |
| 10 November | Birth of Bahá'u'lláh |

2019

| | |
|----------|------------------------------------|
| 21 March | Naw-Rúz (Bahá'í New Year) |
| 21 April | First Day of the Riḍván Festival |
| 29 April | Ninth Day of the Riḍván Festival |
| 2 May | Twelfth Day of the Riḍván Festival |
| 24 May | Declaration of the Báb |
| 29 May | Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh |
| 10 July | Martyrdom of the Báb |

These Holy Days are observed as beginning at sunset on the evening before the dates listed above, and ending on these dates at sunset, since days begin and end at sunset in the Bahá'í calendar. Should they fall on a weekend, the students need not be excused on the following school days. The children are expected to make up any work they may have missed as a result of their being excused from school for their religious observance. Please note that as the Bahá'í Holy Days are fixed considering characteristics of both the lunar and solar calendars, the dates provided above will vary slightly each calendar year.

It may interest you to know that the essential message of Bahá'u'lláh is that of unity. The Bahá'í Faith, the most recent of the world's independent religions, has more than five million believers who can be found around the globe in nearly every country and in many dependent territories. The Encyclopaedia Britannica Yearbook has listed the Bahá'í Faith as second only to Christianity in its geographic spread. Should you wish to know more about the Bahá'í Faith, information is available at www.bahai.org.uk, the official website of the Bahá'í community of the United Kingdom.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter, and we hope that favourable consideration will be given to this request.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Patrick O'Mara', with a large loop at the top and a horizontal line at the bottom.

Patrick O'Mara,
Secretary