



## Decision Record – School Term and Holiday Dates 2016/17

<b>Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking the decision</b>	Cllr Colin Hayfield Education and Learning
<b>Date of Decision</b>	22 JUNE 2015

### Decision Taken

That the Portfolio Holder Education and Learning approves the school term and holiday dates for the 2016/17 academic year as set out in the appendices to the published report.

### Reasons for Decisions

The Local Authority (LA) is currently responsible for setting school term and holiday dates for all Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools. For this arrangement to be formalised the decision of the relevant Portfolio Holder was required.

### Background Information

A number of 'guiding principles' have traditionally been used to set the pattern of terms and holidays and every effort is always made to adhere to as many of the following as possible:

1. 195 days from which the five teacher days are taken;
2. Two of the five days defined by the local authority, one at the start of the autumn and spring terms; the other three to be set by schools;
3. Complete weeks wherever possible;
4. A three weekend break at Christmas and Easter;
5. A summer break as close to six weeks as possible;
6. A pattern which is as consistent as possible with neighbouring authorities.

In devising the options discussions were carried out with neighbouring authorities. There is agreement on the dates for each of the half term holidays and the Christmas and Easter breaks. Other authorities have proposed slightly different start and end dates for the summer break which have been included in the two options circulated for consultation.

Between 13 March 2015 and 1 May 2015 a consultation exercise was carried out with trades unions and schools for the 2016/17 academic year.

The two options put forward for consideration were:

Option 1 was officers' preferred option because it meets most of the principles set out above. It is consistent with one of the options put forward by Coventry LA. This option also had the strong support of the professional associations.

In this option Thursday and Friday of the August Bank Holiday week are teacher days, rather than having a designated teacher day at the beginning of the Spring Term. However it is possible for those days to be used flexibly so that staff do not have to attend school on those days in return for a commitment to undertake activities at other times. This has occurred in the past when the following conditions were drawn up in consultation with the teacher associations and trade unions to ensure that contractual obligations are not compromised:

- The head teacher and governing body must agree to the flexible use of the days.
- If individual teachers are to be given flexibility, each individual must agree to the flexible use of the days. For the whole school to be closed, a majority of teachers must

agree.

- Subject to the above, in return for not attending schools on the teacher days, teachers must agree to undertake other activities for an equivalent length of time, such as twilight sessions on other days or other agreed activities.
  - The Thursday of the Bank holiday week remains the first day of the school year for contractual and pay purposes, whether or not staff actually attend.
- The professional associations are happy to give schools guidance and support on this point.

Option 2 has the start of the Autumn term as 5 September 2016 for staff with pupils returning on Tuesday 6th. It would require schools to remain open until Tuesday 25th July, creating a split week and a long final half term. For these reasons, this option was not recommended.

Sixteen responses were received, 12 from primary phase schools and 4 from secondary. Thirteen were in favour of Option 1, with 3 primary schools in favour of Option 2.

It was therefore recommended that Option 1 be adopted for the 2016/17 academic year.

#### Financial Implications

None direct

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<b>Strategic Director</b>	Monica Fogarty
<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	Councillor Colin Hayfield

#### Checklist

<b>Urgent matter?</b>	No
<b>Confidential or Exempt?</b>	No
<b>Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?</b>	No

#### List of Reports considered

<https://democratic.warwickshire.gov.uk/cm5/CalendarofMeetings/tabid/128/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/645/Meeting/3343/Committee/555/Default.aspx>

#### List of Background Papers

None

#### Members and officers consulted or informed

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Colin Hayfield  
All Strategic Directors  
Legal – Victoria Gould, Fay Ford, Barry Jukes, Peter Endall, Jane Pollard  
Finance – Simon Smith, Chris Norton  
Equality – Minakshee Patel  
Democratic Services – Paul Williams

Children & Young People OSC – party spokes:

Councillors Dave Parsons, Julie Jackson, Clive Rickhards, Chris Williams