

Decision Record – School Term and Holiday Dates 2017/18

Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking the decision	Cllr Colin Hayfield Education and Learning
Date of Decision (not before 17 June 2016)	17/06/2016

Decision Taken

That the Portfolio Holder approves the school term and holiday dates for the 2017/18 academic year as set out in appendix 1 of the published report.

Reasons for Decisions

The school holiday dates are set by the relevant Portfolio Holder.

Background Information

The Local Authority (LA) is currently responsible for setting school term and holiday dates for all Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools. Academies, Foundation and Aided Schools are responsible for setting their own term dates. Academies, Foundation and Aided schools have generally followed the Local Authority's pattern of terms and holiday dates.

A number of 'guiding principles' have traditionally been used to set the pattern of terms and holidays and effort is 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.

Between 9th March 2016 and 24th March 2016 a consultation exercise was carried out with schools for the 2017/18 academic year on the basis of 2 options.

The two options put forward for consideration differed only by the period covered by the October Half Term:

Option 1: October Half Term covers the period Monday 23rd October 2017 to Friday 27th October 2017.

Option 2: October Half Term covers the period Monday 30th October 2017 to Friday 3rd November 2017.

Some 81 responses were received; 25 via email and 56 through the online survey. Thirty-seven were in favour of Option 1, 27 in favour of Option 2 with the remaining 17 respondents not stating a preference. Over a quarter of the responses stated they were not happy with the shortness in length of the Christmas break

During the consultation period further discussions were carried out with neighbouring authorities to align dates as much as possible. As a result of these discussions and comments received from schools Option 1 was reworked to include the following amendments:

February Half Term was moved from the week Monday 12th February 2018 to Friday 16th February 2018 to the period covering Monday 19th February 2018 to Friday 23rd February 2018. Although this shortened the second half of the Spring Term to 24 school days, the measure ensured alignment with the majority of our neighbouring authorities

As a result of feedback received relating to the Christmas Break, the end date for the Autumn Term was moved to Friday 22nd December 2017 with pupils returning on Monday 8th January 2018. Friday 5th January 2017 has been earmarked as a Teacher Training day.

It was recommended that Option 1 with the additional amendments be adopted for the 2017/18 academic year.

Financial Implications

None

Report Author	Sarah Mills
Head of Service	Nigel Minns
Strategic Director	Monica Fogarty
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Colin Hayfield

Checklist

Urgent matter?	No
Confidential or Exempt? (State the category of exempt information)	No
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	No

List of Reports considered

Link to published proposed decision report:

<https://democratic.warwickshire.gov.uk/cm55/CalendarofMeetings/tabid/128/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/645/Meeting/3725/Committee/555/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>

List of Background Papers - please include a contact for access to background papers

None

Members and officers consulted or informed

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Colin Hayfield
 All Strategic Directors
 Legal – Jane Pollard
 Finance – Chris Norton, Virginia Rennie
 Equality – Belinda Blake
 Democratic Services – Paul Williams

Children & Young People OSC – party spokes:

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