

## CABINET MEMBER FOR Children's Services – CLLR Laura Mayes

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### **SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAYS 2017/18**

**1. Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to ask the cabinet member to agree the school term and holiday dates for 2017/18 for Wiltshire's Community, Voluntary Controlled and Community Special Schools.

**2. Relevance to the Council's Business Plan**

Not applicable.

**3. Main Considerations for the Council**

In order to fulfil our statutory duties under Section 32 of the Education Act 2002, the local authority is responsible for determining the term dates for all community, voluntary controlled or community special schools in Wiltshire.

**4. Background**

A protocol for the setting of school term and holiday dates has been endorsed by the Teachers Joint Consultative Committee and County Secretaries.

The South West Officers Group, made up of officers from neighbouring Local Authorities, meets several times a year to facilitate consultation to ensure that we propose similar, if not the same, dates.

All proposed term dates are sent out for consultation to our Teachers, School Governors, Members, Parents and Public, and all comments are included in the consultation feedback prior to the dates being finalised. The final decision is made under the delegated authority of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, in consultation with the Teachers' Joint Consultative Committee.

Each school has a statutory responsibility to operate 380 sessions - the equivalent of 190 days - direct teaching to children each year. Schools in Wiltshire have indicated a strong preference for 195 day calendar which permits 5 staff development days to be set within term time dates. The Headteacher and Governors of each individual school determine when these days are taken.

**5. Overview & Scrutiny Engagement**

Not applicable

**6. Safeguarding Implications**

There are no safeguarding implications involved in this decision.

7. **Public Health Implications**  
There are no public health implications associated with this decision.
8. **Procurement Implications**  
There are no procurement implications involved in this decision.
9. **Equalities Impact of the Proposal**  
There are no adverse equalities implications associated with this decision.
10. **Environmental and Climate Change Considerations**  
There are no impacts on the environment and climate associated with this decision.
11. **Risk Assessment**  
If the decision is not taken then there is a risk that the Local Authority fails to comply with statutory obligations.
12. **Financial Implications**  
There are no financial implications associated with this decision.
13. **Legal Implications**  
Consideration has been given to whether or not there are any ethical or governance issues or any Human Rights implications, and none have been identified.
14. **Options Considered**  
Option 1: This is the preferred option from the original consultation and sees term 2 finish on Friday 15th of December with term reconvening on Tuesday 2nd January, giving a break of two full weeks and three weekends. This break has been adopted by the majority of our neighbouring authorities, including Swindon, Dorset, Hampshire, Devon, B&NES, Bristol, and Gloucestershire.  
  
Option 3: Follows the principles set out in Option 1 but moves the Christmas break so the last day of term 2 is Wednesday 20th December and the start of term 3 Thursday 4th January. Term 6 then finishes a day earlier on Wednesday 25th July.
15. **Reason for Proposal**  
As dictated by Section 32 of the Education Act 2002, the local authority is responsible for determining the term dates for all community, voluntary controlled or community special schools in Wiltshire.
16. **Proposal**  
To approve the 195 day calendar for School Term & Holiday Dates for 2017/18 as shown in Option3.

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The following unpublished documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report: *None*