

## **Wiltshire Council**

### **School terms and holidays**

#### **A protocol for setting dates**

- Start the school year on the first working day of September. (If this is a Friday, schools can make their own decisions about whether to make it a professional development day.)
- Start the third session ('term') on the first Monday of January. If this is the New Year public holiday, start on the next day (Tuesday).
- Make the 10 working days preceding the January return the Christmas and New Year holiday. (The last day of the second session will always be 18, 19, 20 or 21 December.)
- Divide the first two sessions with a holiday of seven working days (Monday of the first week to Tuesday of the second) and make the two sessions as nearly equal in length as possible.
- The third and fourth sessions should each be of 28-30 working days and end on the Friday preceding the first Monday of April. They should be separated by a week's holiday (Monday to Friday) in February. If the Friday preceding the first Monday of April is Good Friday, the fourth session should end the day before (Thursday).
- The fifth session should run from the third Monday of April to the Friday preceding the Spring public holiday (the last Monday of May). If the third Monday of April is the Easter Monday public holiday, start on the next day (Tuesday).
- The sixth session should begin on the first Monday of June and run for as long as is necessary to bring the total number of working days for the year to 195.

#### **Consideration**

- It may be decided to vary by a day or two the start of the first session and the end of the sixth in order to
  - reduce the number of weeks in which there are fewer than five working days
  - maintain a nearly constant length for the summer holiday of 38-40 days

#### **Key dates for planning**

- The first working day of September
- The first Monday of January
- The Friday preceding the first Monday of April
- The third Monday of April
- The Friday preceding the last Monday of May
- The first Monday of June