

29 November 2013

Headteachers & Clerks to Governors of all Wiltshire maintained Schools

LA Circ: A263/13

Children's Services
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JB

Consultation – Response date 07 February 2014

Dear Colleague

SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2015/16 - Consultation

I am writing to seek your views on proposed school term and holiday dates in Wiltshire for 2015/16, which are attached for your comments.

Previous consultations have indicated an overwhelming wish for schools to retain a calendar of 195 days, so as to permit the setting of five staff development days within term time dates. There have also been discussions with other Local Authorities in the South West Region in order to agree, as far as possible, common proposed dates, although the timing of the Easter festival has created some division between authorities on when Term 4 should end.

After some debate it was agreed by Schools Joint Consultative Committee at their meeting on the 21st November to therefore consult on four options:

Option 1: Applies the main principles of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL) protocol with a seven day October break. Term 4 ends on the 1st of April and sees term 6 finishing on Monday 25th July.

Option 2: Shows a proposed calendar based around the ATL protocol but with a five day break in October, with term 6 ending on Thursday 21st July. This is an option favoured by some of our neighbouring authorities.

Option 3: Features a calendar with a five day October break with term 4 ending on Maundy Thursday, incorporating the Easter bank holidays into the break. Term 6 finishes on Wednesday 20th July and is the other option favoured by neighbouring authorities.

Option 4: Follows the same pattern for the Easter break as option 3, but with a seven day October break. This option sees term 6 ending on Friday 22nd July.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this consultation as widely as possible amongst your staff. I would also ask for your assistance in making parents and organisations local to your school aware of the consultation either by including details in a school newsletter and/or by drawing their attention to the details on the website.

A copy of this document has been forwarded to

- All schools for heads to co-ordinate a single school response taking into account the views of all staff
- your clerk to governor with a request that they co-ordinate a reply from the governors.
- The Wiltshire Council website (<u>www.wiltshire.gov.uk</u>) where it can be located as a related page link on the schools and colleges page: <u>Terms and holidays | Wiltshire</u> Council

The results of this consultation will be collated and presented to the Schools Joint Consultative Committee prior to the final recommended model being determined by the Cabinet Member for Children's Services. All comments received will be taken into consideration during the final decision making process.

Please can I take this opportunity to encourage as many schools as possible to complete the attached Response Pro Forma and forward your comments by whatever means is convenient for you; by posting any comments/observations to the address below, or by e-mail to Nicola.McCann@wiltshire.gov.uk. The deadline for responses is **Friday 07 February 2014**. I look forward to receiving your views.

Yours sincerely

Nicola McCann School Term Dates 2015/16 Consultation Children's Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, BA14 8JB

Tel: 01225 713757

Nicola.McCann@wiltshire.gov.uk



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Term	Day	From	Day	То	No. Days
1	Tues	01 September 2015	Wed	21 October 2015	37
2	Mon	02 November 2015	Fri	18 December 2015	35
3	Mon	04 January 2016	Fri	12 February 2016	30
4	Mon	22 February 2016	Fri	01 April 2016	28
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6	Mon	06 June 2016	Mon	25 July 2016	36
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School Term and Holiday dates 2015/16

Consultation Response Pro Forma

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Please indica	ate the single p	oreferred option for your sch	ool below:			
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	Option 2					
	Option 3					
	Option 4					
Comments:						
Thank you fo	or your assistar	nce.				
Signed:			Date			
Designation:						
Please retui	rn before 07 F	ebruary 2014 to:-				
School Term Dates 2015/16 Consultation, Children's Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, BA14 8JB.						
OFFICE USE	ONLY					