

Notice of Meeting

Delegated Officer Decision

Tuesday 19 March 2024

For further information about this Agenda, or to inspect any background documents referred to in Part I reports, please contact Stephen Chard on 01635 519462
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Agenda

Part I

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1 **Term dates 2025-26**

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Sarah Clarke
Service Director: Strategy and Governance

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Agenda Item 1

Title of Report:	Term and Holiday Dates 2025/26
Report to be considered by:	Rose Carberry, Acting Head of Education Services
Date of Report:	19/03/2024

Purpose of Report:	To agree the proposed term and holiday dates 2025/26 following consultation
Recommended Action:	To approve the proposed term and holiday dates for 2025/26

Contact Officer Details	
Name:	Caroline Martin
Job Title:	Trading, Pupil Transport & Planning Officer
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Report

1. Introduction

After discussion with our neighbouring authorities a draft calendar of term and holiday dates for 2025/65 was prepared. As we have aligned dates with our neighbouring authorities it is not expected that there will be any cross-border difficulties.

2. Consultation

The consultation ran from 8 January 2024 to 16 February 2024. The consultation was published on the West Berkshire Council consultation finder section of the website making it publicly available for responses. The consultation was also emailed to the following stakeholders:

- All Head teachers (including academies)
- All School offices (including academies)
- Newbury College
- Parish Councils

West Berkshire provides the term and holiday dates framework for maintained schools.

The framework covers 191 days, which is comprised of 190 “pupil days” and one common training day in September. Schools must set four training days from outside of the “pupil days”.

The Council recommends that schools consider aligning term dates with other schools in the area, for example, secondary schools with primary schools, in recognition of families with children at different schools.

3. Responses

15 responses were received in total of these Agree = 4 Disagree = 11

9 respondents submitted comments for consideration.

- Summer term half term - could be a week later? Very imbalanced
- disagree with some of the suggested INSET days - primarily Friday 2nd Jan
- As a working parent it is difficult to find child care in the holidays . Why don't you have more half term week holidays instead of the ridiculously long summer break. It's an absolute nightmare.
- Scrap the 6 week summer break
- No good reason to change
- All seems sensible and well planned.
- Term dates are planned accordingly, prefer to match Oxfordshire and Hampshire.
- It is really frustrating when all possible INSET Days fall in the autumn term. This gives school leaders no chance to have a decent amount of time with staff to work on issues / developments that might come up within the school year. There is in effect only 1 day that is negotiable - that one would either give an INSET on Dec 19th or July 22nd...neither is particularly good for focused work.
- I don't understand why odd days have to be added onto half terms. It would be better to finish on a Friday so that the whole week is completed. Going back on a Monday after Christmas doesn't work well as children are tired after the Christmas breaks due to late nights over Christmas and New Year.
- Why are you suggesting having an INSET day on the 2nd April when this is in the middle of the Easter break. Would it make more sense to break up on the 1st April 2026 and then have the INSET. The second week of the holiday could then be moved further into April?
- Return in September is too late and the Christmas Break is less than two weeks for staff and students

The data is available at Appendix B to this report.

4. Neighbouring Local Authorities

Proposed term dates were received from Hampshire, Reading and Oxfordshire Local Authorities. The dates chosen also match with their neighbouring authorities making for a much wider community.

A comparison table is available in Appendix C. Our neighbouring authorities all set 195 school days which includes the training days which is why there are some variances, but all other term dates are broadly in line (given that the number of days set varies by LA).

5. Consideration of Comments

The comments were considered by Rose Carberry on 20 February 2024.

Some of the comments refer to length of the school year and number of holidays these are beyond West Berkshire Council decision making as the Government set out the statutory duties regarding number of school days.

Regarding the comments requesting changing dates to better suit childcare/working parents or personal views, the dates have been chosen to match neighbouring authorities and thus alleviate difficulties for families and staff with children at different schools.

The comments regarding inset days are noted, however, schools make their own decisions regarding the recommended inset days and often choose alternative dates or twilight sessions.

On balance, as the dates chosen match all our immediate neighbouring authorities and also their neighbouring authorities it makes sense to agree with the majority.

6. Recommendation

As a result of the consultation it is recommended that:




- The calendar of dates (as at Appendix A) is approved.

APPENDIX A – Proposed Term Dates for 2025/26

September 2025							October 2025							November 2025							December 2025						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5						1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				

January 2026							February 2026							March 2026							April 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4							1							1			1	2	3	4	5
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
														30	31												

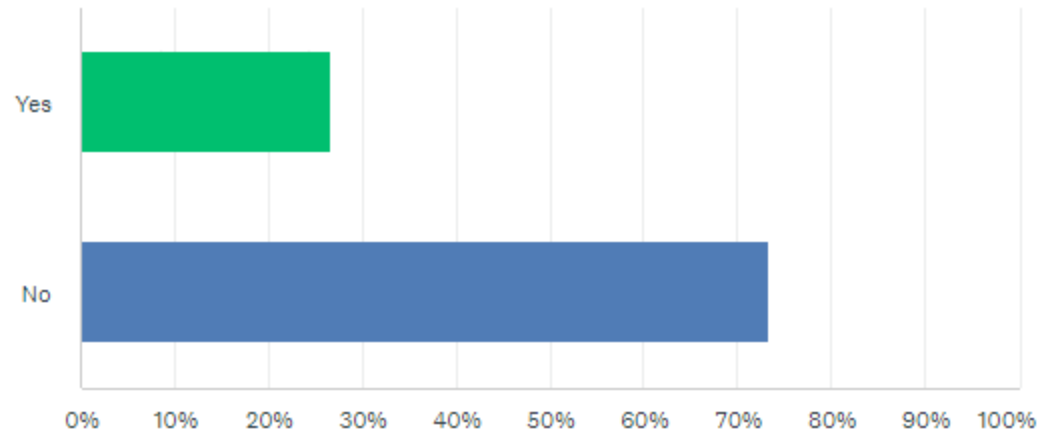
May 2026							June 2026							July 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31		

	Public Holiday
	School Holiday
	Fixed INSET day

APPENDIX B – CONSULTATION RESPONSES DATA

Do you agree with the proposed term dates for 2025/26?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	26.67%	4
No	73.33%	11
TOTAL		15

[Comments \(9\)](#)

APPENDIX C – COMPARISON

	West Berkshire	Hampshire	Reading	Oxfordshire
Term 1	04/09/25 - 23/10/25 36 days	03/09/25 - 24/10/25 38 days	03/09/25 - 24/10/25 38 days	03/09/25 - 24/10/25 38 days
Term 2	04/11/25 – 18/12/25 33 days	03/11/25 – 19/12/25 35 days	03/11/25 – 19/12/25 35 days	03/11/25 – 19/12/25 35 days
Term 3	05/01/26 – 13/02/26 30 days	05/01/26 – 13/02/26 30 days	05/01/26 – 13/02/26 30 days	05/01/26 – 13/02/26 30 days
Term 4	23/02/26 – 27/03/26 25 days	23/02/26 – 27/03/26 25 days	23/02/26 – 27/03/26 25 days	23/02/26 – 27/03/26 25 days
Term 5	13/04/26 – 22/05/26 29 days	13/04/26 – 22/05/26 29 days	13/04/26 – 22/05/26 29 days	13/04/26 – 22/05/26 29 days
Term 6	01/06/26 – 21/07/26 37 days	01/06/26 – 22/07/26 38 days	01/06/26 – 22/07/26 38 days	01/06/26 – 22/07/26 38 days
Total	190 days	195 days	195 days	195 days

West Berkshire set 190 days with a fixed inset day of 3 Sept and 4 more outside of these dates chosen by schools
(suggested inset dates 24/10/25, 3/11/2025, 19/12/2025 and 22/07/2026)

Hampshire set 195 days with a possible inset day of 3 Sept and schools to choose 4 more from within these days

Reading set 194 days with a fixed inset day 3 Sept 4 more to choose from within these days

Oxford set 194 days with a fixed inset day 3 Sept 4 more to choose from within these days

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Delegated Officer's Decision

Reference	Service Grouping
DOD4527	Education

Subject:	Term Dates for 2025/26
Decision taken:	To approve the proposed term dates
Reason for decision taken:	To provide term dates to maintained schools.
Other options considered:	Liaise with neighbouring authorities to match dates
Decision taken by:	Rose Carberry
Scheme of Delegation Ref:	9.4 School Term Dates
Job Title:	Acting Head of Education
Those consulted:	schools, parish councils, unison, public consultation
Background papers:	Consultation Summary Report

I confirm that I have fully advised and have taken account of all the relevant facts in making this decision.

Date Decision Made	Date Decision will be Implemented (5 clear days)
19 March 2024	27 March 2024

Officer:	Rose Carberry
Witnessed by:	Beverley Batty
Date:	19 March 2024

This decision is eligible to be 'called-in'. However, if the decision has not been 'called-in' by 5.00pm on 26 March 2024, then it will be implemented.

If you have any queries regarding this decision, please contact:

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