

Title of Report:	Term and Holiday Dates 2024/25
Report to be considered by:	Michelle Sancho, Acting Head of Education Services
Date of Report:	21/02/2023

Purpose of Report:	To agree the proposed term and holiday dates 2024/25 following consultation
Recommended Action:	To approve the proposed term and holiday dates for 2024/25

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Report

1. Introduction

After discussion with our neighbouring authorities a draft calendar of term and holiday dates for 2024/25 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 9 January 2023 to 17 February 2023. 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)
- Newbury College
- Portsmouth Catholic Diocese
- Unison
- 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

48 responses were received in total of these Agree = 36 Disagree = 4

18 respondents submitted comments for consideration.

- The summer 1 term is too short, and the second term too long.
- It is finishing too close to Christmas. I had one child this year finished on 16th Dec and other on 20th dec so big gap
- The only serious problem, which is obviously beyond your control because of the bank holiday, becomes longer than ideal. However the end of the summer term is always a 'wind down' period so not impossible
- The children don't get bored
- 22 days seems a very short term. I realise Bank holidays affect this but it would be better to move summer half term a week to even things out.
- Seems sensible to me
- It makes complete sense to me to have the same dates across areas and also between primary and secondary schools to help families who have children across different schools
- Fits in with the other local schools
- I like the long summer holiday
- As a childminder it's much easier if the children are off school at the same time in order to plan the day's activities. If only some are off, it means we are tied to pick up school times etc. another reason it's a good idea is that parents often have to take time off work at this time. In this climate with limited holiday work time, it's nice to use that holiday time as holiday time. If primary schools/senior schools all had the same date set by the local council it would mean parents could possibly go away with their children at a cheaper time.
- It makes logistical and practical sense for working parents
- They are evenly balanced for the children and staff
- April start of term two inset days. Will be difficult for parents to get childcare. Insets on Fridays easier.
- To be honest I would prefer my children to finish earlier for Xmas
- Schools primary , secondary, colleges should have half-term all aligned. This will help work parent's to organise they work timetables.
- I think that it is better for term to end at the end of July. It is not always a good thing for all schools to be aligned with holiday dates. It just means the travel industry increases the price of holidays for that whole period
- My son would have left school by next year. I have worked for the school system for a number of years. I think it is a good idea to align the school terms with neighbouring authorities. A friend of mine worked for a West Berks School and her children attended schools in Wiltshire which had different term dates. Also minor issue but in the past I have gone to a Swimming pool over the boarder in Hampshire to find it closed because there schools were off a different week.
- The summer term was extremely hot last year and if it is the same again this year would there be a possibility of putting earlier starts and finishes or finishing earlier in July

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.

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 Michelle Sancho on 21 February 2023. Some of the comments refer to length of the school year and amount of holidays these are beyond West Berkshire Council decision making as the Government set out the statutory duties regarding number of school days. With regard to 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. Overall, it was considered that the majority of respondents were in favour of the proposed dates.

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 2024/25

September							October							November							December						
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		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3							1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30																					30	31					
January							February							March							April						
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						1	2						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
														31													
May							June							July													
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	2	3	4	5	6							
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13							
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20							
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27							
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31										
							30																				

	Public holiday
	School holiday
	Fixed INSET day

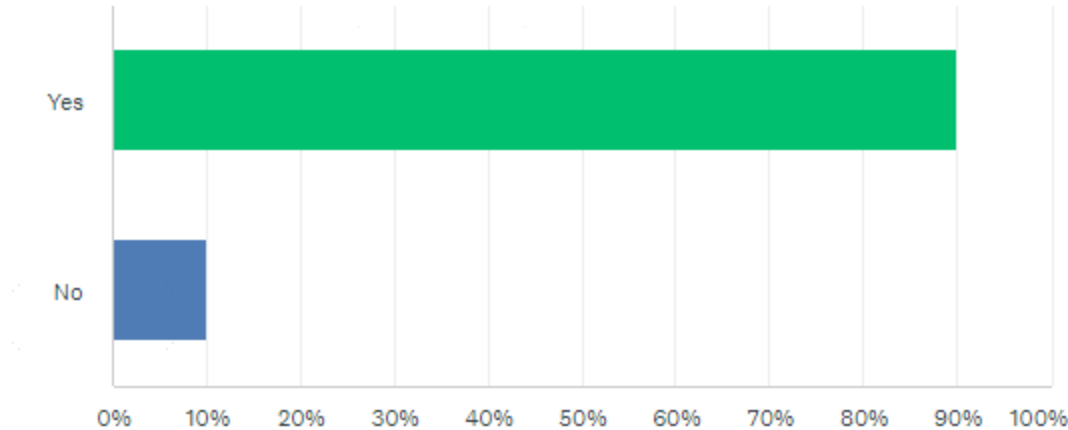
APPENDIX B – CONSULTATION RESPONSES DATA

Q2



Do you agree with the proposed term dates for 2024/25?

Answered: 40 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	90.00%	36
No	10.00%	4
TOTAL		40

APPENDIX C – COMPARISON

	West Berkshire	Hampshire	Reading	Oxfordshire
Term 1	04/09/24 - 24/10/24 37 days	02/09/24 - 25/10/24 40 days	04/09/24 - 25/10/24 38 days	03/09/24 - 25/10/24 39 days
Term 2	04/11/24 – 19/12/24 34 days	04/11/24 – 20/12/24 35 days	04/11/24 – 20/12/24 35 days	04/11/24 – 20/12/24 35 days
Term 3	06/01/25 – 14/02/25 30 days	06/01/25 – 14/02/25 30 days	06/01/25 – 14/02/25 30 days	06/01/25 – 14/02/25 30 days
Term 4	24/02/25 – 04/04/25 30 days	24/02/25 – 04/04/25 30 days	24/02/25 – 04/04/25 30 days	24/02/25 – 04/04/25 30 days
Term 5	23/04/25 – 23/05/25 22 days	22/04/25 – 23/05/25 23 days	22/04/25 – 23/05/25 23 days	22/04/25 – 23/05/25 23 days
Term 6	02/06/25 – 22/07/25 37 days	02/06/25 – 22/07/25 37 days	02/06/25 – 23/07/25 38 days	02/06/25 – 22/07/25 37 days
Total	190 days	195 days	194 days	194 days

West Berkshire set 190 days with a fixed inset day of 3 Sept and 4 more outside of these dates chosen by schools

Hampshire set 195 days with a possible inset day of 2 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 2 Sept 4 more to choose from within these days