

Notice of Meeting

Delegated Officer Decisions

Thursday 23rd March 2017

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
e-mail: stephen.chard@westberks.gov.uk

Further information and Minutes are also available on the Council's website at
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To: Councillors

Agenda

Part I

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Andy Day
Head of Strategic Support

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If you require this information in a different format or translation, please contact Moira Fraser on telephone (01635) 519045.





Delegated Officer's Decision

Reference	Service Grouping
	Education

Subject:	Term Dates for 2018/19
Decision taken:	To approve the proposed term dates
Reason for decision taken:	To provide term dates to maintained schools.
Other options considered:	A number of options for the configuration of terms dates were carefully considered with Education Management Advisory Board (EMAB).
Decision taken by:	Ian Pearson
Scheme of Delegation Ref:	3.16.5
Job Title:	Head of Education
Those consulted:	EMAB, 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)
23 March 2017	31 March 2017

Officer:	
Witnessed by:	
Date:	23/03/2017

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

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

Name: Caroline Martin
Job Title: Trading, Pupil Transport & Planning Officer
Tel: 01635 519777
Email: caroline.martin@westberks.gov.uk

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Title of Report:	Term and Holiday Dates 2018/19
Report to be considered by:	Ian Pearson, Head of Education Services & EMAB
Date of Report:	23/03/2017

Purpose of Report: To agree the proposed term and holiday dates 2018/19 following consultation

Recommended Action: To approve the proposed term and holiday dates for 2018/19

Contact Officer Details	
Name:	Caroline Martin
Job Title:	Trading, Pupil Transport & Planning Officer
Tel. No.:	01635 519777
E-mail Address:	EducationTrading@westberks.gov.uk

Report

1. Introduction

A number of options for term and holiday dates 2018/19 were drafted and considered by EMAB on 8 December 2016. A preferred version was selected for consultation.

2. Consultation

The consultation ran from 9 January 2017 to 24 February 2017. 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 Headteachers (including academies)
- Newbury College
- Portsmouth Catholic and Oxford Anglican Diocese
- Unions

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

10 responses were received in total: Agree – 5 Neutral – Disagree – 5

respondents submitted comments for consideration.

- 1 comment was concerned about the length term 2
- 1 comment wanted an inset day on 8th January
- 1 comment would prefer the February half term to start a week earlier
- 1 comment wanted terms evenly distributed

The complete responses are available at Appendix B to this report.

4. Neighbouring Local Authorities

Proposed term dates were received from Hampshire and Reading Local Authorities.

A comparison table is available in Appendix C. Reading LA has a later half term in Term 1, Hampshire starts Term 3 earlier 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 Ian Pearson and EMAB on 23 March 2017.

No changes were considered necessary in the context that very few comments were received and the changes requested by responders were not supported more widely.

6. Recommendation

As a result of the consultation, it is recommended that:

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

APPENDIX A - CALENDAR OF PROPOSED DATES FOR 2018/19

September							October							November							December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S

APPENDIX B – CONSULTATION RESPONSES

- As a Headteacher, I always want to start a 'large' term with an INSET day. The proposed dates mean that I will have to have Friday 4th January as an INSET day and this is far from ideal. I would propose the Spring Term starts on Tuesday 8th January and the day is placed at the beginning or end of another half term.
- I would like to see the holiday at the end of term 1 fall a week later. Term 2 is always incredibly busy, with many Christmas related activities, productions and trips taking place at the end of term. It is also a week longer than Term 1. By the end of Term 2 children are usually exhausted. I would therefore like to suggest that Term 1 is made a week longer and Term 2 a week shorter in order to slightly alleviate this situation.
- they seem fine
- Term 5 is too short, isn't there anyway the terms can be more evenly distributed in 2019
- Could the February half term be a week earlier. This would make holidays for parents much more accessible. My daughter does gymnastics grades in March as is not allowed to take time off 6 weeks before grades. Having the half term a week earlier would allow us to go away as a family.
- We have traditionally tried to maximise the number of student days before mid-May, to enable more teaching time for exam groups. This process usually entails keeping to a week, the October break. We intend to start on Tue 4 September, using Mon 3 September as Inset, start on Tue 23 April, and finish the year on Fri 19 July.

APPENDIX C – COMPARISON

	West Berkshire	Hampshire	Reading
Term 1	05/09/18 – 19/10/18 33 days	03/09/18 – 19/10/18 34 days	05/09/18 – 26/10/18 38 days
Term 2	30/10/18 – 20/12/18 38 days	29/10/18 – 19/12/18 38 days	05/11/18 – 21/12/18 35 days
Term 3	07/01/19 – 15/02/19 30 days	03/01/19 – 15/02/19 32 days	07/01/19 – 15/02/19 30 days
Term 4	25/02/19 – 05/04/19 30 days	25/02/19 – 05/04/19 30 days	25/02/19 – 12/04/19 35 days
Term 5	24/04/19 – 23/05/19 21 days	23/04/19 – 24/05/19 23 days	29/04/19 – 24/05/19 19 days
Term 6	03/06/19 – 24/07/19 38 days	03/06/19 – 24/07/19 38 days	03/06/19 – 23/07/19 37 days
Total	190 days	195 days	194 days

West Berkshire dates:

190 “pupil days” set, plus 4 September as a training day. Schools to select 4 further training days from outside of these dates. This brings the total to the required 195 days. Suggested training days are 3 Sept, 29 Oct, 23 April and 24 May.

Hampshire dates:

195 school days set. This is 190 “pupil days” plus 5 training dates. This brings the total to the required 195 days.

Reading dates:

194 school set, plus 4 September as a training day. Schools to select 4 further training days from within these dates. This brings the total to the required 195 days.

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