

CONSULTATION ON SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2008/09

RECOMMENDATION

1. To agree the school term and holiday dates for the academic year 2008/09 (see appendix 2).
2. To suggest that schools consider, in consultation with their staff, that the last day of the summer term is taken as a disaggregated INSET day in order to preserve a full six weeks of summer break – if staff so wish.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The department has consulted widely with school staff, governors, parents and neighbouring authorities about the proposed dates.
- 2.2 The unions have raised concerns that the 'summer holiday' will be 5 weeks 6 days and have proposed a solution. Schools are asked to consider this proposal in consultation with their staff.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Local Authority determines the school term and holiday dates for community schools. Foundation and voluntary aided schools are recommended to adopt the same pattern of dates.
- 3.2 The proposed dates have been set in line with those proposed by the Local Government Association, which is keen to have uniformity nationally on dates.
- 3.3 Schools were asked to consult as widely as possible with their staff and communities. The responses are largely supportive of the suggested dates with only concern expressed about Derbyshire County Council potentially having different dates.
- 3.4 The NASUWT response expressed concerns that the dates proposed will mean the 'summer holiday' will be 5 weeks 6 days rather than 6 weeks.

This has been discussed more widely with all unions concerned at the Joint Consultative Committee on 8 December 2006. The unions proposed that "Derby City Council adopts the practice of recommending at least one school closure (Baker) day

for 2007/8 to schools. If the final day of the summer term in 2008 was a recommended school closure day, with a further recommendation that schools replace this day with twilight INSET or appropriate directed activities for the staff at home, then the six weeks' holiday would be retained in practice. In order for this to occur, the local authority would have to recommend this as soon as possible, as schools are currently planning their INSET days for 2007/8."

- 3.5 All primary and secondary heads were in favour of the dates at their recent meetings. Heads' Liaison Group supported the dates recommended at their meeting on 19 October 2006.
- 3.6 There was further discussion at Heads' Liaison Group on 14 December when they considered the unions' proposed solution. Heads agreed that schools consider, in consultation with their staff, that the last day of the summer term is taken as a disaggregated INSET day in order to preserve a full six weeks of summer break – if staff so wish.
- 3.7 The County have not yet set their dates for 2008-09, and would like to know the outcome of our consultation and would aim to set dates in line with ours.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4. The Local Authority considered other options but chose to go with one set of proposed dates as the most sensible option.

For more information contact: Sian Hoyle / 01332 716934/ sian.hoyle@derby.gov.uk

Background papers:

List of appendices:

Appendix 1 - Implications

Appendix 2 – School term and holiday dates 2008/09

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. None.

Legal

2. The dates set comply with the legal requirement for 195 teaching days. Schools can then choose the dates for their 5 INSET days.

Personnel

3. None.

Equalities impact

4. None.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

5. The proposal comes under the Council's Objectives of **job opportunities, strong and positive neighbourhoods, education** and **integrated cost effective services**.

Appendix 2

SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2007/2009

2007 / 2008

Teaching days

Autumn 2007

Monday 3 September to Friday 19 October
Monday 29 October to Friday 21 December

75

Spring 2008

Monday 7 January to Friday 15 February
Monday 25 February to Friday 4 April

58

Summer 2008

Monday 21 April to Friday 23 May
Monday 2 June to Wednesday 23 July

62

TOTAL 195

Bank Holidays

*25 & 26 December, January 1 2008, Good Friday – 21 March, Easter
Monday – 24 March, 5 May, 26 May*

Proposed for 2008/2009

Teaching days

Autumn 2008

Wednesday 3 September to Friday 24 October
Monday 3 November to Friday 19 December

73

Spring 2009

Monday 5 January to Friday 13 February
Monday 23 February to Friday 3 April

60

Summer 2009

Monday 20 April to Friday 22 May
Monday 1 June to Wednesday 22 July

62

TOTAL 195

Bank Holidays

*25 and 26 December, January 1 2009, Good Friday – 10 April, Easter
Monday – 13 April, 4 May, 25 May*

