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Cabinet Member (Education)

8 April 2014

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

Cabinet Member (Education) – Councillor D Kershaw

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Executive Director, People

**Ward(s) affected:**

All

**Title: Determination of School Terms and Holidays 2015 – 2016**

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**Is this a key decision?**

No – Although the issue affects all Wards of the City, it is not expected to significantly impact on communities

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**Executive Summary:**

This report informs the Cabinet Member of the outcome of the public consultation on the School Terms and Holidays dates for 2015/2016 and asks the Cabinet Member to agree the School Terms and Holidays Calendar for 2015/2016.

Currently the local authority is required to set term and holiday dates for community schools, community special schools, voluntary controlled schools, pupil referral units and maintained nursery schools. All schools in England are free to decide when their school day should start and end.

Governing bodies are required to set term and holiday dates in foundation and voluntary aided schools. The academy trust is responsible for the duration of the school year and term and holiday dates for academies and free schools.

A public consultation on the Coventry school terms and holidays dates 2015/2016 took place from 11 February 2014 to 7 March 2014. There were 112 valid replies to the consultation. The more popular of the two options available was Option 1 with pupils returning to school on Wednesday, 2 September 2015 and finishing the academic year on Wednesday, 20 July 2016. Details of the two options for School terms and holidays dates 2015/2016 can be seen on pages 4 and 5 of the Consultation Document, which is found in Appendix 1.

**Recommendations:**

The Cabinet Member (Education) is requested to:

- (1) Consider the outcome of the public consultation on School Terms and Holidays and agree a calendar of School Terms and Holidays for 2015/2016.

- (2) Adopt Option 1 as the School Terms and Holidays Programme 2015/2016 for Community, Voluntary Controlled and Community Special Schools, and maintained Nursery Schools.
- (3) Invite the Catholic and Church of England Diocesan Authorities and the Governors of Trust Schools and Academies to recommend the same calendar for their schools.

**List of Appendices included:**

Appendix 1: School Terms and Holidays 2015/2016 Consultation Document  
Appendix 2: Examples of comments of respondents to the public consultation

**Background Papers**

None

**Other useful documents:**

Education (School Day and School Year) (England) Regulations 1999 (for academic year length.)  
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/32/section/32>  
<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/attendance/a00221847/school-day-school-year>  
<http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm86/8642/8642.pdf> , Schedule 14, section 33

**Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?**

No

**Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?**

No

**Will this report go to Council?**

No

## **Report title: Determination of School Terms and Holidays 2015 - 2016**

### **1. Context (or background)**

- 1.1 Under Section 32 of the Education Act 2002 in the case of a community, voluntary controlled or community special school or a maintained nursery school the Local Authority is required to determine the dates when the school terms and holidays are to begin and end, and the governing body is required to determine the times of the school sessions.
- 1.2 Governing bodies are required to set term and holiday dates in foundation and voluntary aided schools. The academy trust is responsible for the duration of the school year and term and holiday dates for academies and free schools.
- 1.3 The draft Deregulation Bill proposes allowing governing bodies of community, voluntary controlled, community special schools or maintained nursery schools in England to set the dates when the school terms and holidays are to begin and end. The proposed change would take effect from September 2015 onwards. The Local Authority believes that a standard set of holiday dates adopted by all Coventry schools will be better for school attendance, the organisation of admissions to Year R/Year 7 and for parents and carers arranging childcare and transport. Coventry schools will be requested to adopt the outcome of this consultation.
- 1.4 The current Coventry Local Authority principles and protocols were taken into account when setting the 4 options for consideration:
  - a school year is 195 days, with 190 pupil days and 5 teacher days;
  - 1 teacher day is determined by the Local Authority and 4 days by individual schools;
  - statutory holidays are observed;
  - schools prefer, especially secondary schools, full weeks of teaching wherever possible;
  - schools prefer a full week break at half term and two full weeks at Easter and Christmas;
  - half term holidays are set at the same time as those of neighbouring Authorities if possible.
- 1.5 The half term holidays in 2015/16 consultation options have been set to the preferred dates of Warwickshire and the neighbouring West Midlands authorities. Until these authorities have finished their own consultations their actual term and holiday dates are unknown.
- 1.6 There were 112 valid replies to the public consultation, which took place from 11 February 2014 to 7 March 2014. The most popular overall of the 2 options available was Option 1 with 63 votes. Option 2 had 45 votes and 4 respondents sent comments, but did not choose an option.

### **2. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 2.1 The full details of the 2 options for School terms and holidays dates 2015/2016 can be seen in the Consultation Document found in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 The protocols in para 1.3 were complied with in both options.
- 2.3 In previous consultations head teachers and members of the public have expressed a preference for school holidays to be set at the same time as those of neighbouring Authorities. In consideration of this viewpoint the two consultation options had the same dates set for the half term holidays and , as far as possible, the Christmas holiday as neighbouring authorities.

- 2.4 Teachers have expressed concern that pupils should have enough time in school after Easter to prepare properly for summer exams. They have also expressed a preference for equal term lengths. The table below shows the term lengths for each option offered in the consultation.

Table 1: Term Lengths for Consultation Options

	Option 1	Option 2
Autumn	74	73
Spring	54	54
Summer	67	68
Total	195	195

Please note that these term lengths include the five teacher days.

Easter Sunday is 27 March 2016 so the Spring term is short in comparison to the summer term.

- 2.5 Easter Sunday is the first Sunday in the school Easter holiday in both options. This is preferred by some schools. Both the Easter and Christmas holidays are two complete weeks.
- 2.6 Having met the criteria in the protocols, para 1.3, and preferences given in paragraphs 2.3 - 2.5 there was very little scope for alternative options. Head teachers and teachers have frequently mentioned that incomplete teaching weeks lower attendance, but incomplete weeks are unavoidable due to bank holidays and the 190 days pupils are required to be taught. Therefore the consultation options were for alternative start and end dates, giving an opportunity to indicate the best choice for attendance.

### 3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 The Consultation Document was sent to Head teachers and Governing bodies of Coventry's schools, Diocesan Boards of Education, FE Colleges, Trade Unions, Early Years Providers and Libraries. It was also available on the Coventry City Council website, [www.coventry.gov.uk](http://www.coventry.gov.uk), and Coventry Learning Gateway.
- 3.2 Replies were invited in writing, by email or online from the Coventry City Council website.
- 3.3 There were 112 valid responses to the consultation coming from 99 individuals and 13 organisations.
- 3.4 The most popular choice was option 1 with 63 votes (34%). Option 2 had 45 votes (30%) and 4 respondents chose to send comments only.
- 3.5 The results can be seen in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Summary of Replies

Response Type	Option 1	Option 2	Blank	Grand Total
On behalf of an organisation	5	7	1	13
As an individual	58	38	3	99
Grand Total	63	45	4	112

- 3.6 Sixty six respondents sent comments. These were grouped into broad categories and a summary can be seen in Table 3.

Table 3: Summary of Reasons for Choice

Reason	Count	% of comments
Miscellaneous	24	36%
Holidays	15	23%
Pupil benefit	13	20%
Work, childcare, family coordination	8	12%
Attendance	6	9%
Local authorities	5	8%
Curriculum	3	5%

- 3.7 More than one reason can be given by a respondent so the total count of reasons is greater than sixty six.
- 3.8 The most common category of comments of comment was miscellaneous, where the comment was too vague or concerning terms and holidays in general rather than the options. The next most common reasons were holidays and benefit to the pupil.
- 3.9 Other common reasons given were coordinating with work, childcare or the family, being the same as other local authorities and pupil attendance.
- 3.10 Examples of comments can be seen in Appendix 2
- 3.11 Option 1 was more popular than Option 2 overall so Option 1 is recommended as the School Terms and Holidays calendar for 2015/2016 for Coventry Community, Voluntary Controlled and Community Special Schools, and maintained Nursery Schools.

#### **4. Timetable for implementing this decision**

- 4.1 When the cabinet member decision becomes effective schools will be informed of the approved school terms and holidays calendar for 2015/16. The approved calendar will also be displayed on the City Council website and Coventry Learning Gateway.
- 4.2 Catholic and Church of England Diocesan Authorities, Governors of voluntary aided schools, Governors of trust schools and Academy Trusts will be informed and invited to recommend the same calendar for their schools

#### **5. Comments from Executive Director, Resources**

- 5.1 Financial implications

There are no financial implications.

- 5.2 Legal implications

Under Section 32 of the Education Act 2002 in the case of a community, voluntary controlled or community special school or a maintained nursery school the Local Authority is required to determine the dates when the school terms and holidays are to begin and end. The Governing Body is required to determine the times of the school sessions.

The Governing Body in the case of Foundation, Voluntary Aided, Foundation Special Schools and Academies are required to determine school terms and holidays dates. Paragraph 3 of Schedule 14 of the Government's draft de-regulation Bill (which is currently in the House of Commons) moves all responsibility for determining term dates in community, voluntary controlled and community special schools and maintained nursery schools from the local authority to the governing body. If approved the governing body of all such maintained schools will be responsible for determining their school's term and holiday dates each year as is the case now for all Aided, Foundation and Academy schools.

## **6. Other implications**

### **6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?**

The Local Authority is required to determine the dates when the school terms and holidays are to begin and end for community, voluntary controlled or community special schools or maintained nursery schools.

Appropriate school term and holiday dates can increase attendance and aid curriculum planning so helping pupil achievement.

### **6.2 How is risk being managed?**

Current legislation on the number of teaching sessions has been complied with. Trade unions were asked to consider the calendar options prior to the public consultation to ensure that the options were acceptable to their members. The public consultation considered in this report has enabled various points of view from school staff and governors, parents and carers and pupils to be taken into account.

### **6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?**

Centrally employed staff on Teachers Pay and Conditions will have their holiday pattern determined by this consultation.

### **6.4 Equalities / EIA**

Although all the views of different groups are considered in setting term dates, Government legislation and the protocols given in paragraph 1.3 limit the flexibility of the dates for school terms and holidays.

Before the start of the public consultation on School Terms and Holidays 2015/16 Warwickshire and West Midlands local authorities and unions were consulted to find out if there were any issues they believed would affect setting the school term and holiday dates. No specific equalities issues were identified through this process.

The public consultation on the Coventry school term and holiday dates 2015/16 took place from 11 February 2014 to 4:00pm, 7 March 2014. The consultation aimed to establish the views of governors, head teachers, teachers, parents and carers of pupils and other school employees.

The Consultation Document was sent to head teachers and Chairs of Governing bodies of Coventry's schools, Diocesan Boards of Education, FE Colleges, Trade Unions, Early Years Providers, Libraries and was also available on the Coventry City Council website,

www.coventry.gov.uk, and Coventry Learning Gateway. The consultation document was available in other formats and languages on request. One request for an alternative format was received.

The survey asked for comments from respondents to further inform the decision.

The data received mainly reflected the views of governors, teachers, and parents and carers of pupils and did not raise any equalities issues.

#### **6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment**

None

#### **6.6 Implications for partner organisations?**

It is desirable to align school holidays with those of neighbouring local authorities to minimise the difficulties to families such as those where parents work or live in a different authority to that of the school attended by their children or where siblings attend schools in different authorities.

**Report author(s):****Name and job title:**

Margaret Halpin, Information Analyst

**Directorate:**

People

**Tel and email contact:**

Tel: 024076831581

E-mail: [margaret.halpin@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:margaret.halpin@coventry.gov.uk)

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

<b>Contributor/approver name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Directorate or organisation</b>	<b>Date doc sent out</b>	<b>Date response received or approved</b>
<b>Contributors:</b>				
Michelle Salmon	Governance Services Officer	Resources	14/03/14	20/03/2014
<b>Names of approvers for submission:</b> (officers and Members)				
Rachel Sugars	Finance Manager	Resources	14/03/2014	19/03/2014
Elaine Atkins	Solicitor	Resources	14/03/2014	14/03/2014
Myran Larkin	Human Resources Schools	Resources	14/03/2014	18/03/2014
Jaspal Mann	Corporate Research	Chief Executive's	14/03/2014	18/03/2014
Kristi Larsen	Corporate Research	Chief Executive's	14/03/2014	18/03/2014
Brian Walsh	Executive Director	People	14/03/2014	18/03/2014
Councillor D Kershaw	Cabinet Member (Education)	-	14/03/2014	24/03/2014

This report is published on the council's website: [www.coventry.gov.uk/councilmeetings](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/councilmeetings)



# Appendix 1

## Coventry City Council People's Directorate

### School Terms and Holidays 2015/2016 Consultation

11 February 2014 to 7 March 2014

#### INTRODUCTION

Coventry Local Authority is now seeking your views on school terms and holidays options for the 2015/2016 academic year.

The draft Deregulation Bill proposes allowing governing bodies of community, voluntary controlled, community special and maintained nursery schools in England to set their own school term and holiday dates from September 2015 onwards. The Governing Bodies of academies, free schools, foundation/trust and voluntary aided schools currently have the power to set the term and holiday dates for their own schools.

The Local Authority believes that a standard set of holiday dates adopted by all Coventry schools will be better for school attendance, the organisation of admissions to Year R/Year 7 and for parents and carers arranging childcare and transport. The term and holiday setting procedure will continue as in previous years for 2015/16 and Coventry schools will be requested to adopt the outcome of this consultation.

#### BACKGROUND

Coventry takes into account the following principles in setting calendars for school terms and holidays:

- a school year is 195 days, with 190 pupil days and five teacher days;
- one teacher day is determined by the Local Authority and four days by individual schools;
- statutory holidays are observed;
- schools prefer full weeks of teaching wherever possible;
- schools prefer a full week break at half term and two full weeks at Easter and Christmas;
- half term holidays are set at the same time as those of neighbouring authorities if possible.

#### TEACHER DAYS

A teacher Day is a work day for teachers, but not a pupil teaching day

If a community or voluntary controlled school decides to close to pupils on an election day then one of the remaining four teacher days must be used for this purpose. This is also recommended for foundation/trust and voluntary aided schools and for academies.



In 2016 the proposed date for the Coventry City Council (Local) election is 5 May 2016.

### **Options for the 2015/2016 Academic Year**

Until other West Midlands Authorities and Warwickshire have finished their own consultations their term and holiday dates are unknown. The preferred options for the 2015/16 half term holidays are Monday 26 October to Friday 30 October, Monday 15 February to Friday 19 February and Monday 30 May to Friday 3 June.

Coventry City Council is asking for your option preference for the choices below. Holiday dates are inclusive.

#### **Option 1**

Autumn Term 2015

- Term Starts Wednesday 2 September 2015 for pupils (Tuesday 1 September 2015 for teachers)
- Half Term Monday 26 October 2015 to Friday 30 October 2015
- Term Ends Friday 18 December 2015

Spring Term 2016

- Term Starts Monday 4 January 2016
- Half Term Monday 15 February 2016 to Friday 19 February 2016
- Term Ends Thursday 24 March 2016

Summer Term 2016

- Term Starts Monday 11 April 2016
- Half Term Monday 30 May 2016 to Friday 3 June 2016
- Term Ends Wednesday 20 July 2016

#### **Option 2**

As Option 1 with the following changes:

Autumn Term 2015

- Term Starts Thursday 3 September 2015 for pupils (Wednesday 2 September 2015 for teachers)

Summer Term 2016

- Term Ends Thursday 21 July 2016

These options are illustrated in calendar format on page 4.

### **Please Make Your Views Known**

This consultation document is currently available to download on the Coventry City Council website and is also available to view on request at your local school and your local library.

**Your views are important. Please make them known using one of the following methods:**

**Complete the online feedback form on the Council's website by following the link**

<http://www.coventry.gov.uk/schoolholidayandtermdates15-16>

or <http://www.coventry.gov.uk/consultations>

**or**

Complete the questionnaire on pages 5 and 6 of this consultation document and e-mail to: [Datateam.PD@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:Datateam.PD@coventry.gov.uk) with “Term Dates 2015/16” in the message subject title

or

Post your completed questionnaire to:  
Margaret Halpin  
Data Team, People's Directorate  
Room 246, Civic Centre 1  
Earl Street  
COVENTRY  
CV1 5RS

Replies Must Be Received before 4:00 PM Friday 7 MARCH 2014.

### **What Happens Next**

The consultation period runs from Tuesday 11 February 2014 to 4:00pm Friday 7 March 2014. All responses received during the consultation period will be collated and reported to Cabinet Member (Education), on 8 April 2014, for his decision.

Following the decision by the Cabinet Member (Education), the dates of the Terms and Holidays for Academic Year 2015/16 will be available on the [School Term and Holiday](#) page of the Coventry City Council website

### **Calendar Options for the 2015/2016 Academic Year**

Half terms align with the preferred options of the majority of West Midlands Local Authorities.

Easter Sunday is at the start of the Easter holiday.

The date for the next Local Election is currently set at 5 May 2016.

### Option 1

July 2015							August 2015							September 2015							October 2015						
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	S
		1	2	3	3	5						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	
							31																				

  

November 2015							December 2015							January 2016							February 2016						
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	S
						1		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29						
30														30	31												

  

March 2016							April 2016							May 2016							June 2016						
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	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3						1				1	2	3	3	5
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				
														30	31												

  

July 2015						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Autumn Term      74 days      Including 1 September Teacher day  
 Spring Term      54 days  
 Summer Term    67 days  
 Total              195 days

Holiday     
  Bank Holiday     
  Teacher Day     
  Pupil Day

Teachers return to school on 1 September 2015 and pupils return on 2 September 2015

### Option 2

July 2015							August 2015							September 2015							October 2015						
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	S
		1	2	3	3	5						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	
							31																				

  

November 2015							December 2015							January 2016							February 2016						
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	S
						1		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29						
30														30	31												

  

March 2016							April 2016							May 2016							June 2016						
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	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3						1				1	2	3	3	5
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				
														30	31												

  

July 2015						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Autumn Term      73 days      Including 2 September Teacher day  
 Spring Term      54 days  
 Summer Term    68 days  
 Total              195 days

Holiday     
  Bank Holiday     
  Teacher Day     
  Pupil Day

Teachers return to school on 2 September 2015 and pupils return on 3 September 2015

## School Terms and Holidays 2015/2016 Questionnaire

This survey is being carried out by Coventry City Council, in line with the Data Protection Act 1998. The data controller is Coventry City Council. The information collected in this survey will be used by Coventry City Council for the purposes of setting the School Term and Holiday Dates for Community Schools in 2015/16. A final report will be published here: [www.coventry.gov.uk/previousconsultations](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/previousconsultations) after 26 April 2014. All information produced will be anonymised.

### 1) In what capacity are you responding (please tick one)?

- As an Individual  
 On behalf of an Organisation

If you are replying on behalf of an organisation please could you give the name of the organisation?

### 2) Please tick the description that best fits you (select all that apply).

- |                                                     |                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Head Teacher               | <input type="checkbox"/> Pupil, primary age      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Pupil, secondary age    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chair of Governors         | <input type="checkbox"/> Pupil, sixth form       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Governor                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Local business employer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trade Union representative | <input type="checkbox"/> Member of the public    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other school employee      | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/carer               |                                                  |

If you ticked Other, please provide details:

### 3) Please tick your preferred academic year option

- Option 1  
 Option 2

### 4) Additional Comments:

A brief statement of the reason for your decision gives a better understanding of the priorities for schools and their users when term dates are set. Reasons might include curriculum planning, family holidays coinciding, culture or faith.

**About you:**

Please provide some information about yourself so that we can monitor which groups of people are taking part in the consultation.

Please be advised that the information you provide will be stored on SurveyMonkey servers in the United States of America and Survey Monkey gives an undertaking never to disclose the survey questions or your response to others without permission. All data will be held securely. You are under no obligation to complete this section of the survey if you do not wish to.

**How old are you?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Under 16	<input type="checkbox"/>	55 – 64
<input type="checkbox"/>	16 - 24	<input type="checkbox"/>	65 – 74
<input type="checkbox"/>	25 - 34	<input type="checkbox"/>	75 – 84
<input type="checkbox"/>	35 - 44	<input type="checkbox"/>	85+
<input type="checkbox"/>	45 - 54	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**What is your gender?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Male
<input type="checkbox"/>	Female

**What is your ethnic background?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	White - British (includes English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Asian/ Asian British - Pakistani
<input type="checkbox"/>	White - Irish	<input type="checkbox"/>	Asian/ Asian British - Bangladeshi
<input type="checkbox"/>	White - Gypsy/Irish Traveller	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chinese
<input type="checkbox"/>	White - Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	Asian/ Asian British - Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed - White and Black Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>	Black/ Black British - African
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed - White and Black African	<input type="checkbox"/>	Black/ Black British - Caribbean
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed - White and Asian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Black/Black British - Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed - Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	Arab
<input type="checkbox"/>	Asian/ Asian British - Indian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other ethnic group

**What is your religion?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	No religion	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jewish
<input type="checkbox"/>	Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Muslim
<input type="checkbox"/>	Buddhist	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sikh
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hindu	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other religion

**Do you consider yourself to be a disabled person?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.**

**Please return your response before 4:00pm Friday 7 March 2014 to:**

**Margaret Halpin  
Data Team, People's Directorate  
Room 246, Civic Centre 1  
Earl Street  
Coventry CV1 5RS**

**Alternatively you can reply using the online feedback form on the Council's website:**  
[www.coventry.gov.uk/schoolholidayandtermdates15-16](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/schoolholidayandtermdates15-16) or <http://www.coventry.gov.uk/consultations>

**or**

**e-mail to: [Datateam.PD@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:Datateam.PD@coventry.gov.uk) using "Term Dates 2015/16" in the message subject title.**

If you need this information in another format  
or language please contact us.  
**Telephone: (024) 7683 1581**  
**Fax: (024) 7683 3899**

**E-mail: [margaret.halpin@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:margaret.halpin@coventry.gov.uk)**



# Appendix 2

## Examples of Comments from the Consultation

Comments have been anonymised and grouped by category of comment.

### Miscellaneous

Does a single day difference between the two proposals make much difference? It is the large summer break that needs reviewing and should be split into a shorter amount of time off, with the remaining days added to the half term breaks. Such a long period of time away from school is extremely difficult to manage from a child care perspective and financially expensive considering the unreasonable hike in holiday costs. If this is not feasible, then it should be considered whether the summer break can be moved earlier into July or later into September. This would help alleviate the issues regarding holiday price increases (as would returning to the previous system if allowing head teachers to grant permission for term time holidays).

We would follow the local authority dates. We would be prepared to consider a change if all local schools including primaries were going to change to shorter summer holidays and longer half terms as evidence has shown that this can be beneficial to the learning of students.

Best of two bad options. Why not go radical and join the rest of Europe and change the terms about, shorter (but more of them) holidays for one. It causes too many problems trying to get childcare for those of us that work for a living. Staggered holidays would ease the pressure on work/life balance. Teacher friends of mine that have worked abroad say their systems are much better, look at the Scandinavian example.....

This seems to be the closest option to what currently happens and I can't see any reason to change it.

Logical week breaks.

### Attendance

Split weeks are always awkward to manage. However, Option 2 allows two days rather than 3 for pupils to get back up to speed after the summer break before starting their first full week. Option 2 also creates a 4 day final week of the school year which is harder to question and dismiss than a 3 day week.

Option 2 could encourage parents to take a late summer holiday and keep their child off school for the first two days of the autumn term; whereas Option 1 would hopefully discourage this.

As I deal with attendance in our school breaking up on a Thursday will bring our attendance right down as some children will not attend those other days.

Option 1 would ensure that the children returned at the beginning of term for three days rather than for two days which may support families not taking holidays which run over the start of term.

### Curriculum

Aids curriculum planning

.....Also from my teaching perspective, I believe that option one offers better opportunities for curriculum planning.

.....the second option would allow a day longer to process sixth form enrolment during the school holiday.....

### **Benefits Pupil**

The teaching staff and I believe that Option Two will provide the pupils with the best possible start and end to the academic year.

I believe that a longer first week is preferable in order to give children more time to settle in to their new classes or schools. It also gives teacher more opportunity to get to know their pupils.

Back from Summer Holidays for 2 days will ease children into the new academic year.

I have based my decision on a Year 11 students' finishing school earlier in the year, going into 6th form a day earlier could benefit them. I really don't see what a big difference it makes anyway. A lot of unnecessary fuss and administration work.

Starting the term in September with a 2 day week for students does not make for a great start to their learning in my experience.

### **Holidays**

I feel that coming back to school on 1st September feels too early and does not give people chance to finish their holidays properly

Finishing earlier in the summer - holiday prices increase!

Family holiday - cheaper at end aug

Neither option is preferable to me. Could you not look at altering the term and holiday dates so that they can be staggered with the rest of the country? Therefore making family holiday decisions easier and affordable?

Later start after the summer- cheaper flights.

Easier to arrange family holidays

Holidays

### **Work, Childcare, Family**

Option one is more convenient for working parents.

In truth convenience is the reason for my choice as few split midweek holiday & school time as is possible, as this impacts significantly on annual leave for work.

Option 2 would be impossible for working parents with more than one child. Juggling work and childcare is hard enough without having to do extra days.

Child care clubs finishes at the end of August (30th) and parents have used their annual leave up that adding extra days at the end of summer holidays is very difficult for working parents. At our school they have a BAD HABIT of leaving teacher training days until end of summer term, so you never finish on the Wednesday and again children clubs do not start until the following week so parents are needing to add odd days of already of very stretched annual leave.

In work .....September is the busiest time for me so would prefer my children to go back as soon as possible in September.

..... my children are still school age. Option 2 fits in better with my husband so we can benefit from time off all together.

## **LA**

My children attend ...schools in Warwickshire and I believe option 1 ties in best with Warwickshire holidays. Also from my teaching perspective, I believe that option one offers better opportunities for curriculum planning.

I cannot decide as I do not have enough information. For our family, we need the dates to be the same as Solihull and Rugby. And currently we do not have those dates. It is lovely that schools can set their own dates....but no one has considered the impact on families with links to more than one school! All schools across the country should have the same dates!

Please align Coventry's term dates with other local authorities, for example, making sure Easter is the same as Warwickshire.

No great difference between the two. Would be good if we were lined up with Solihull, Birmingham and Warwickshire.