

**PROPOSED SCHOOL TERM DATES FOR 2018/19 FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS**

Responsible Cabinet Member: Councillor Nolan (Cabinet Member for Children and Families)

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**Executive Summary:**

The Council is required by the Department for Education to set term dates for community and voluntary controlled schools in Milton Keynes. Other types of schools set their own term dates. There must be 190 education days. Schools are then free to identify 5 INSET days from the remaining 175 days in the year when the school is closed to pupils.

A consultation of proposed term dates took place between 22 November 2016 and 16 January 2017 to which 24 responses were received. 83% of respondents disagreed with the proposals, with the main themes of disagreement focused on:

1. The inability to set school INSET days with concern that the proposed dates did not allow for natural INSET days
2. The timings of the spring and summer terms
3. The length of the second half of the spring term

In addition to the responses received during the consultation, late responses were also received from schools within the Shenley Brook End liaison group and the Primary Heads Strategy Group. Responses outlined concern that the proposed dates were not in line with other schools which are their own admission authorities and as such, presented complexities for parents.

As a result of these responses the term dates have been adjusted and it is recommended that the revised dates, set out in this paper, are formally adopted for community and voluntary controlled schools for the 2018/19 academic year.

**1 Recommendation**

1.1 That the following 190 school term days are formally adopted for community and voluntary controlled schools for the 2018/19 academic year:

	Open morning of	Close at the end of the afternoon session on	Total days per half term
Autumn Term 2018	4 September 2018	25 October 2018	38
	5 November 2018	21 December 2018	35

	Open morning of	Close at the end of the afternoon session on	Total days per half term
Spring Term 2019	7 January 2019	15 February 2019	30
	26 February 2019	5 April 2019	29
Summer Term 2019	23 April 2019	24 May 2019	23*
	3 June 2019	19 July 2019	35
			190

\*Total excludes Bank Holiday on Monday 6 May 2019

## 2. Issues

- 2.1 The Education Act 2002 states that the Council should determine the dates when school terms are to begin and end for all community and voluntary controlled schools. Other categories of schools (voluntary aided, foundation, academies and free schools) are required to determine their own term dates. The dates are normally set 18 months in advance to ensure adequate notice.
- 2.2 For 2018/19 term dates, a consultation took place between 22 November 2016 and 16 January 2017. The consultation (**Annex A**) was published on the Council's website, in Educ@te (the Council's regular newsletter to all schools) and in Councillors' News (wards and parishes). It was emailed to stakeholders including academy trusts, early years settings, Unions, Council teams who work with schools and children, colleges, adult education, youth service, libraries, schools finance, passenger transport, faith boards, and neighbouring authorities.
- 2.3 **Annex B** presents a summary of consultation responses. A total of 24 responses were received, comprising 12 primary schools, 1 preschool, 1 infant school, 1 junior school, 1 secondary school, 2 Local Authority teams, 1 parent, 2 unknown schools, 2 neighbouring local authorities and Unison. Of these 20 disagreed and 4 agreed. In addition late responses were received from the Shenley Brook End Liaison Group and the Primary Heads Strategy Group.

## 3. Options

- 3.1 There are three options:
- Do not set the term dates. This is not recommended option as the Council is required to set school term dates for community and voluntary controlled schools, as set out in the Department for Education 'School Attendance Guidance' and Education Act 2002 section 32.
  - Adopt the term dates which were provided for the consultation and which would apply only to community and voluntary controlled schools. Since a significant majority of respondents disagreed, this is not the recommended option.
  - Amend the term dates in line with the responses received to the consultation. See **Annex C** for amended term dates. **This is the recommended option.**

#### 4. Implications

##### 4.1 Policy

Once adopted, the term dates 2018/19 become policy for all maintained community and voluntary controlled schools. Other types of schools may set their own dates.

##### 4.2 Resources and Risk

N	Capital	Y	Revenue	N	Accommodation
Y	IT	Y	Medium Term Plan	N	Asset Management

##### 4.3 Legal

The Council is required to set school term dates as described in [School Attendance guidance](#) (page 15) and under the Education Act 2002 – section 32.

##### 4.4 Other Implications

None.

Y	Equalities/Diversity	N	Sustainability	N	Human Rights
N	E-Government	Y	Stakeholders	N	Crime and Disorder

Background Papers: [School Attendance Guidance](#) (Page 15)

Annexes: Annex A: Consultation document  
Annex B: Summary of consultation responses  
Annex C: Amended term dates