

**REPORT FOR: EDUCATION STRATEGY
CONSULTATIVE FORUM**

Date of Meeting:	30 January 2013
Subject:	School Term Dates 2014/2015
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officer:	Adrian Parker, Head of Education Strategy and School Organisation
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Mitzi Green, Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Families
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	No
Enclosures:	Annexe A – Draft School Term Dates: 2014/2015

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report presents the Forum with a proposal for the school term dates for the academic year 2014/2015 for consultation with constituent groups.

Recommendations:

The Education Strategy Consultative Forum is asked to:

1. consider the proposal at Annexe A;
2. arrange to consult their constituent groups about the proposal;
3. agree to make a recommendation to the Portfolio Holder at the meeting of the Forum on 21 March in order to determine the School Term Dates for 2014/2015.

Reason: (For recommendation)

In order to fulfil the council's requirement to determine the school term dates for 2014/2015.

Section 2 – Report

Introduction

1. Schools are required by statute to provide schooling for 190 days. Teaching staff are required by their terms and conditions to complete 195 days including 5 development days.
2. Under section 32 of the Education Act 2002, in respect of community schools, the Local Authority shall determine the dates when school terms and holidays are to begin and end, and the Governing Body shall determine the times of the school sessions.
3. For voluntary aided schools, academies, free schools, foundation or foundation special schools the responsibility for determination of school dates and times of school sessions all rest with the Governing Body.
4. The Education Strategy Consultative Forum annually recommends the term dates for each school year. At a meeting earlier in the school year models available are circulated to the Forum for consultation with their constituent groups. Following consultation about proposals for term dates, the recommendations of the Education Strategy Consultative Forum are reported to the responsible Portfolio Holder for decision.
5. In previous years the LGA has coordinated the preparation of a Standard School Year draft for each year. However, the LGA has decided to stop coordinating the development of draft models for standard school years. This is because only around 40% of areas are now following the Standard School Year. The government's policies to promote academies and free schools will mean that increasingly school governing bodies will be determining the school term dates for their schools.

Harrow Agreed Principles

6. The Education Strategy Consultative Forum agreed a set of principles to apply to School Term Dates for Harrow. These are as follows:
 - The school year to be set with 195 days, incorporating 5 development days
 - Schools to determine the development days
 - The school year to start on the first useful day in September
 - The October break to be one full week, the last full week in October
 - A 10 school day break at Christmas
 - A 10 school day break at Easter/Spring
 - A one week break in February and May/June
 - A summer break of 5-6 weeks (not more than 6 weeks)

Options considered

7. An internet search has been undertaken to identify proposed School Term Dates for 2014/15 for consideration. The draft model attached as Annexe A draws on this information and conforms to the Harrow Agreed Principles.

Other local authority models available

8. Hertfordshire is the only local authority neighbouring Harrow that has agreed School Term Dates for 2014/15. The Hertfordshire dates are the same as the recommended model below, with the following variations:
 - Spring Term 2015 ends on Thursday 2 April 2015 (Maundy)
 - Summer Term 2015 starts on Monday 20 April and ends on Wednesday 22 July 2015.

9. The London Inter-Authority Admission group (LIAAG) propose the following variation to the recommended model:
 - Autumn Term 2014 half term to be week beginning 17 October (i.e. a week earlier)

10. The LIAAG reasoning is from a school admissions point of view, in that the earlier October half term means the closing date for secondary applications (31 October 2014) is in term time, allowing primary schools to play a role up to the closing date in ensuring the applications of Year 6 pupils are in. The national primary offer date (16 April 2015) does not fall within the Easter break in the recommended model.

11. An additional perspective offered by LIAAG is that, now the Department for Education is reporting on absence to the end of the summer term rather than May, it is better to avoid extending the summer term beyond Monday 20 July 2015.

Recommendation

12. It is recommended that Forum representatives consult their constituent groups about the proposal with a view to making a recommendation to the Portfolio Holder at the meeting of the Forum on 21 March in order to determine the School Term Dates for 2014/2015. The table below summarises the proposed term dates.

Term	Dates	School Days
Autumn Term 2014 15 weeks	Monday 1 September 2014 to Friday 24 October 2014	40
	<i>Half Term Monday 27 October 2014 to Friday 31 October 2014</i>	
	Monday 3 November 2014 to Friday 19 December 2014	35
Spring Term 2015 11 weeks	Monday 5 January 2015 to Friday 13 February 2015	30
	<i>Half Term Monday 16 February 2015 to Friday 20 February 2015</i>	
	Monday 23 February 2015 to Friday 27 March 2015	25
Summer Term 2015 9½ weeks	Monday 13 April 2015 to Friday 22 May 2015	29
	<i>Half Term Monday 25 May 2015 to Friday 29 May 2015</i>	
	Monday 1 June 2015 to Monday 20 July 2015	36
Total	School Days including INSET days	195

- Notes:
1. Good Friday is 3 April 2015.
 2. Easter Monday is 6 April 2015.
 3. Early May Bank Holiday is on Monday 4 May 2015.

Occasional Days

13. At their meeting in June 2009, the Education Consultative Forum agreed to introduce Occasional Days. These allow governing bodies to agree to up to 3 additional closure days to take account of the need to observe Non-Christian religious festivals. If 3 occasional days are adopted then the school year will be 198 days and the additional days must be added to the end of the summer term.

Financial Implications

14. None.

Risk Management Implications

15. The consultation process through the Education Strategy Consultative Forum ensures that stakeholder views are taken into account to minimise risk management issues.

Equalities Implications

16. The Harrow agreed principles were developed following consultation with schools, governors, parents and other partners and take account of the needs of Harrow's diverse community. Schools are able to adopt up to three occasional closure days to meet specific community needs.
17. Harrow sets term dates of 195 school days each year and schools/governing bodies have the flexibility to set the 190 pupil contact days within this framework to meet the needs of each school's community.

Corporate Priorities

18. These considerations will support the Council's Corporate Priorities:
- United and involved communities: A Council that listens and leads.
 - Supporting and protecting people who are most in need.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name:	Emma Stabler	<input type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date:	10 January 2013		
Name:	Sarah Wilson	<input type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date:	14 January 2013		

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Chris Melly, Senior Professional, School Organisation,
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Background Papers: None