

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, EDUCATION & EARLY HELP SERVICES

TO:	ADULT SOCIAL CARE, CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE		
DATE:	12 JULY 2017	AGENDA ITEM:	13
TITLE:	CONSULTATION REPORT ON CHANGES TO TERM DATES		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	CLLR JONES	PORTFOLIO:	EDUCATION
SERVICE:	EDUCATION	WARDS:	ALL
LEAD OFFICER:	GILL DUNLOP	TEL:	74148
JOB TITLE:	VIRTUAL HEAD - CHILDREN MISSING OUT ON EDUCATION	E-MAIL:	gill.dunlop@reading.gov.uk

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Reading school term and holiday dates for the academic years 2017-18 and 2018-19 are not in alignment with those of our neighbouring local authorities at certain points in the year. Due to concerns raised by head teachers and parents there has been a consultation on whether to change published term dates for these two years.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That although the majority of those consulted supported the change to new term dates suggested in Proposal 1 Reading Borough Council officers consider that on balance it is too late to practically do so and therefore the recommendation is that the term dates and holiday dates remain as previously published for 2017-18
- 2.2 That Reading Borough Council adopts the new term dates suggested in Proposal 2 for the academic year 2018-19 giving schools and parents time to plan for the changes

3. POLICY CONTEXT

These proposals are formulated within the context of:

- 3.1 The School Admissions Arrangements as determined by Reading School Admissions Forum.
- 3.2 The School Admissions Code 2014.
- 3.2 Advice on School Attendance DfE September 2014.

4. THE PROPOSAL

The anomaly in the Easter 2018 holiday dates was first raised by head teachers in Reading concerned about the impact on the attendance of their pupils and their staff for the holiday that did not match those of our neighbours. Head teachers also reported that both staff and parents were concerned about the practicalities and cost of organising childcare when children attended different schools or where their staff live in a different area from that in which they work. Direct enquiries were also received from parents and from two Councillors on behalf of their constituents. However the driver for the consultation (Proposal 1) was the head teachers and the local authority joint wish to be proactive and seek a solution.

There is a similar anomaly in the academic year 2018-19 in the October 2018 and Easter 2019 holidays. Therefore it is prudent to consult on changes to term dates for this following year to address these issues (Proposal 2).

Before embarking on the consultation the virtual head teacher - Children Missing Out on Education and Bob Griggs (legal team) checked the statutory guidance for any legal directive on the deadline for publishing or changing published term dates; no precedent was found in either case to suggest that published term dates could not be changed.

Permission was sought from the Head of Education and Councillor Jones to begin a consultation with school staff and governors, parents (via schools), trade union and local councillors. Agreement to consult received from Councillor Jones on 30.05.17.

The Consultation was sent to head teachers, governors, parents (via schools) and Cllr Jones on 07 June 2017. The proposals were presented in term dates and calendar format.

Proposal 1:

The Reading Borough Council published dates for maintained schools do not align with those of our neighbouring local authorities or some of our Academy and Free Schools. For Reading maintained schools term ends on 23 March 2018 and the new term starts on 9 April 2018; for our neighbours and non-maintained schools term end on 29 March and term starts on 16 April. This clearly has implications for the attendance of children and school staff and childcare practicalities and potentially cost.

The schools that have published term dates in line with Reading dates are:

- All maintained primary and nursery schools
- Blessed Hugh Faringdon (term ends 22.03.18)
- Reading Girls' School
- UTC Reading
- The Wren (terms end 26.03.18)

The proposal is that all schools consider adopting term 4 end on 29 March 2018 and start term 5 on 16 April. This new term pattern gives a total of 194 days so an extra day will need to be found. The most obvious options are 20 December 2017 or 25 July 2018 both of which extend the Christmas and July end of terms by one day;

25 July could be an INSET day and thus would not affect families. (Appendix 1: 2017-18 proposed term dates and calendar)

Proposal 2:

There is similarly a problem with the term dates for 2018-2019; the October 2018 holiday and the Easter 2019 holiday are both set for one week later than our neighbours. The proposal is that Reading schools adopts the October holiday (22nd - 26th October 2018) and Easter (8th - 23rd April 2019) in line with other local authorities and that the term dates are re-published. (Appendix 2: 2018-19 proposed term dates and calendar)

Head teachers were asked to respond to the consultation by 15 June 2017.

Consultation outcome: (Appendix 3)

All Reading Schools primary, secondary and special schools responded (53)

There were no responses from the five nursery schools

Proposal 1

In favour: 39 schools; 74%

Against: 14 schools; 26%

Summary of concerns of schools:

Five maintained schools did not want to change the published dates with reasons given as too short notice and disruptive, cost of staff cover for booked holidays, staff and parental opposition due to holidays booked in advance.

Seven non-maintained schools voted against the changes mainly due to short notice or extended catchment (selective secondary).

Fifteen parental responses were received for Proposal 1: six (40%) in favour of changing the dates; nine (60%) against.

Parental response:

There were 15 responses from parents in 5 schools

In favour: 6 (40%)

Against: 9 (60%) Cited booked holidays, cost of childcare and children in different schools as reasons

Proposal 2

In favour: 51 schools (96%)

Against: 1 school (2%) selective school

Partial: 1 school (2%) rejected change to October 2018 holiday but accepted Easter 2019 holiday

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 5.1 This report describes progress towards achieving Reading Borough Council's strategic objectives: 'to establish Reading as a Learning city'; to be 'a stimulating and rewarding place to live' and to 'provide the best start in life through education, early help and healthy living'.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

None required in relation to this report.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications contained within this report.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications contained within this report.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 Appendix 1: Proposed Term dates and holidays 2017-18

- 9.2 Appendix 2: Proposed Term dates and holidays 2018-19

- 9.3 Appendix 3: Consultation outcomes: responses by school

Appendix 1:

Proposed Term dates 2017-18

Proposed Term dates 2017/18

Term	Start Date	End Date	Holiday	Number of Days
1	Wednesday 06/09/17 - (05/09 Inset day)	Friday 20.10.17	23.10.17 - 27.10.17	34
2	Monday 30/10/17	Tuesday 19.12.17	20.12.17 - 02.01.18	37
3	Wednesday 03/01/18	Friday 09.02.18	12.02.18 - 16.02.18	28
4	Monday 19/02/18	Thursday 29.03.18	30.03.18 - 13.04.18	29
5	Monday 16/04/18	Friday 25.05.18	27.05.18 - 01.06.18	29 (BH 07/05/19)
6	Monday 04/06/18	Wednesday 25.07.18	26.07.18 - Start of next academic year	38
			TOTAL -includes Inset day 05.09.17	195

Need to find 1 additional day so suggest 25.07.18 if changes to published dates

2017-2018 Academic Calendar

New proposed

Suggested additional day

1st Inset Day

School Holiday

Bank
Holidays

AUGUST 2017						
Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
		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		

SEPTEMBER 2017						
Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
				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	

OCTOBER 2017						
Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						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					

NOVEMBER 2017						
Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
		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			

DECEMBER 2017						
Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
				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

JANUARY 2018						
Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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				

FEBRUARY 2018						
Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			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				

MARCH 2018						
Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			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	

APRIL 2018						
Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						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						

MAY 2018						
Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	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			

JUNE 2018						
Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
				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	

JULY 2018						
Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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					

Appendix 2:

Proposed Term dates 2018-19

Proposed Term dates 2018/19

Term	Start Date	End Date	Holiday	Number of Days
1	Wednesday 05.09.18 - (04/09 Inset day)	Friday 19.10.18	22.10.18 - 26.10.18	34
2	Monday 29.10.18	Friday 21.12.18	24.12.18 - 04.01.19	40
3	Monday 07.01.19	Friday 15.02.19	18.02.19 - 22.02.19	30
4	Monday 25.02.19	Friday 05/04/19	08.04.19 - 22.04.19	30
5	Tuesday 23.04.19	Friday 24/05/19	27.05.19 - 31.05.19	23 (BH 06/05/19)
6	Monday 03.06.19	Wednesday 24/07/19	25/07/19- Start of next academic year	38
			TOTAL - includes 1 Inset day 04.09.18	195

Need to find 1 additional day 24th July 2019 suggested if changes to published dates

2018-2019 Academic Calendar

New proposed

Suggested additional day

1st Inset Day

School Holiday

Bank Holidays

AUGUST 2018						
Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
		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		

SEPTEMBER 2018						
Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
					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

OCTOBER 2018						
Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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				

NOVEMBER 2018						
Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			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		

DECEMBER 2018						
Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
					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		

JANUARY 2019						
Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	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			

FEBRUARY 2019						
Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
				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			

MARCH 2019						
Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
				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

APRIL 2019						
Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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					

MAY 2019						
Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
		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		

JUNE 2019						
Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
					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

JULY 2019						
Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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				

Appendix 3

Consultation outcomes: responses by school

School	Proposal 1	Comments					Proposal 2	Comments				
North												
Caversham Park Primary	Yes						Yes					
Caversham Primary School	No	staff and parent opposition					Yes					
Emmer Green Primary School	Yes						Yes					
E.P Collier Primary	Yes						Yes					
Micklands Primary	Yes						Yes					
St Anne's Catholic Primary*	Yes						Yes					
St Martins Catholic Primary*	Yes						Yes					
Thameside Primary	No	Cost of supply for 2 teacher holidays					Yes					
The Heights*	Yes						Yes					
The Hill Primary	Yes						Yes					
Highdown*	In line						Yes					
East												
Alfred Sutton Primary	Yes						Yes					
New Town Primary School*	Yes						Yes					
Redlands Primary	Yes						Yes					
St John's Primary*	Yes						Yes					
UTC*	Yes						Yes					
Maiden Erlegh Reading*	Yes						Yes					
Kendrick*	No	Publish own dates as wide catchment					No	As proposal 1				
Reading School*	Yes						Yes					
South												
Christ The King*	No						Yes					
Geoffrey Field Infant School	Yes						Yes					

Geoffrey Field Junior School	No					Part	No for October 2108 Yes to Easter 2019				
The Palmer*	Yes					Yes					
New Christ Church*	Yes	Will come in line if only if others agree				Yes					
The Ridgeway Primary	Yes					Yes					
Phoenix College	Yes					Yes					
Whitley Park School	Yes					Yes					
JMA*	Yes					Yes					
Reading Girls'	No					Yes	Confirmation from Baylis Court (Sponsor)				
West											
Battle Primary*	No					Yes					
Civitas Academy*	Yes					Yes					
Churchend Primary*	Yes					Yes					
English Martyrs*	No	VA school can publish own dates				Yes					
Manor Primary	Yes	can we change to Monday, 4th Sept INSET				Yes					
Meadow Park*	No	dates already published on website				Yes					
Moorlands Primary	Yes					Yes					
Park Lane Primary	Yes					Yes					
Ranikhet Primary*	Yes					Yes					
Southcote Primary	Yes					Yes					
St Michaels Primary	Yes					Yes					
Wilson Primary	No	Incurs cost and adversely affects staff				Yes					
Thames Valley School*	Yes					Yes					
Central Reading											
All Saints Infants	No					Yes					
All Saints Juniors*	No					Yes					
Coley Primary	No					Yes					
Katesgrove Primary	Yes					Yes					
Oxford Road Primary	Yes					Yes					
St Mary & All Saints*	Yes					Yes					

