

TO: EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING
DATE: 4 MAY 2017

TERM DATES FOR 2018/19
Director Children Young People & Learning

1 PURPOSE OF DECISION

- 1.1 To set term dates for Bracknell Forest Community and Voluntary Controlled schools and to recommend to voluntary aided or academy schools for possible adoption.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the term dates for the academic year 2018/19 attached in Annex 1 (in two formats) be approved.
- 2.2 That 3 September 2018 be set as an in-service training day for all schools.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Term dates are not set nationally and the LGA no longer recommends term dates.
- 3.2 That the pattern suggested is similar to that which has been set by neighbouring local authorities.
- 3.3 Following consultation the proposed term dates have been amended as shown in the attached version. This is to reflect the requested change to the dates at Christmas 2018.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None. It is a statutory requirement that the local authority set dates for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 It is a statutory requirement that there be 195 school days in an academic year, including 5 in-service training days for school staff. Various patterns of days are possible around the fixed points of Christmas, Easter and bank holidays, the wish for terms lengths to be as equal as possible and holidays to be of a reasonable length to allow pupils and staff to rest and refresh.
- 5.2 In deciding dates to consult on and set, the Council considers dates being set in neighbouring authorities to avoid inconvenience to parents having children at schools in two different authorities, or where parents may work in a school in one authority but have children at a school in a different authority.
- 5.3 Term dates to be set are at Annex 1 in two formats.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The Education School Days and School Year England Regulations 1991 leaves it to the LA in consultation with schools and neighbouring areas to set the term dates. The legal requirement is 380 half days or 195 full days schooling a year.

Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 The Borough Treasurer is satisfied that no significant financial implications arise from this report.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 An initial screening has been completed.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 Significant risks include:

ISSUE	RISK	COMMENT
Term Dates must be set across the borough to ensure all schools follow the same schooling dates	LOW	Schools may not comply with the compulsory schooling days per year.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 All Headteachers and Chairs of Governors within Bracknell Forest as well as all neighbouring Local Authorities were consulted. Trade Unions were also consulted. Comments were requested.

Method of Consultation

- 7.2 By email. The consultation took place between the 21 February 2017 and 17 March 2017

Representations Received

- 7.3 Attached as Annex 2.

Background Papers

None

Contact for further information

David Watkins Chief Officer Strategy, Resources & Early Help
01344 354061 david.watkins@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Lesley Adams Senior Admissions Officer
01344 354143 lesley.adams@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Approved by Cllr Dr Gareth Barnard
Executive Member, Children, Young People
& Learning

Signature.....

Date: 4 May 2017

Approved by Nikki Edwards
Director, Children, Young People
& Learning

Signature.....

Date: 4 May 2017