

**Brighton & Hove City Council**

**For general release**

**Meeting:** Children, Families & Schools Sub-Committee

**Date:** Monday 15 March 2004

**Report of:** Director, Children, Families and Schools

**Subject:** School Term Dates 2005 - 7

**Wards affected:** All

**1. Purpose of the report**

1.1 This report sets out proposed term dates for 2005/6 and 2006/7.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee is asked to consider and comment upon:-
- i) the principles agreed with neighbouring authorities, as the basis for determining term dates
  - ii) proposed term dates for 2005/6, and 2006/7.

**3. Information/background**

- 3.1 Following the decision taken at the last meeting of the Children, Families and Schools Sub-Committee on the pattern of the school year, discussions have been held with neighbouring authorities on a common pattern for future school terms.
- 3.2 A set of principles has been agreed, which will normally determine future term dates. (See Appendix 1) On the basis of these principles, draft term dates have been drawn up for years 2005/6 and 2006/7. (See Appendix 2)
- 3.3 Term dates with the same holiday periods are currently being considered in East and West Sussex, together with other neighbouring authorities in the south east region. It is proposed that term dates will be published for the next two years, and the operation of the new term dates will be reviewed towards the end of that period.

3.4 Based on the outcome of comments received from this committee and the consultations set out below, the Director of Children, Families and Schools will take a decision on the term dates for the period 2005 – 2007 by the end of this term.

#### **4. Consultation**

4.1 The following consultations have taken place:-

- Headteachers at the Headteachers Steering Group on 27 February.  
(Headteachers wanted to keep one standard in service day on the first day of the Autumn Term. The additional 4 in service days to be arranged by the school.)
- Governors at the Governors' Network on 3 March.
- Both Diocesan Authorities have been invited to comment
- Discussions will be held with relevant Unions on 12 March.

COMMITTEE REPORT APPENDIX



<b>Meeting/Date</b>	<b>Children, Families &amp; Schools Sub-Committee</b>
<b>Report of</b>	<b>Director of Children, Families &amp; Schools</b>
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Term Dates 2005 - 7</b>
<b>Wards affected</b>	<b>All</b>

<p><b>Financial implications</b>                  There are no financial implications  <i>Finance Officer consulted: Paul Brinkhurst /Date 1.3.04</i></p>
<p><b>Legal implications</b>                  Under Section 41 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 it is the duty of the LEA, in the case of community schools or the governing body of a voluntary aided school to determine the dates when school terms and holidays begin and end. Article 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998 provides for the Right to a Fair Hearing so that a proper consultation process involving interested and affected parties, as is described in the body of this report, must take place.  <i>Lawyer consulted: Sandra O'Brien.. /Date 3.3.04.</i></p>

<b>Corporate/Citywide implications</b> None.	<b>Risk assessment</b> None
<b>Sustainability implications</b> None.	<b>Equalities implications</b> None
<b>Implications for the prevention of crime and disorder</b> None.	

<p><b>Background papers</b>                  Report to CFS Sub Committee 26 January 2004</p>
<p><b>Contact Officer</b>                  Janis Winkworth, Governor Support Manager, Tel 293506.</p>

## Suggested Principles for the Planning of the School Year

1. The calendar recommended to schools should at present be based on 195 days. Schools will have flexibility within this, level to be agreed by individual LEAs, to determine which 190 days were teaching days. This issue would need to be reviewed if teachers' contractual professional development requirements changed.
2. The school year for pupils should not normally begin before the Monday following the August Bank Holiday Monday. This would need to be reviewed if Government subsequently altered the timing of that Bank Holiday.
3. The break in the period between September and the Christmas holiday should normally be one week in length, positioned to occupy the last school week before the clocks changed, towards the end of October (*NB- end of BST beyond October 2007 not yet set by Government*). Individual LEAs may wish to add an additional day at the end of the week previous to that, in discussion with local schools, but not more than that.
4. The school holiday over Christmas and New Year should never be less than two full weeks in length. Some extension would occasionally be needed sensibly to incorporate the New Year Bank Holiday without creating an very short school week after the holiday period.
5. The school holiday in February should fall so as to give the most even division of teaching blocks between January and the school holiday in April. It would usually occupy the second full week of February, but would occasionally fall in the third full week if this was needed to achieve more even teaching blocks between the beginning of January and the end of March..
6. The date of the Easter weekend (Good Friday to Easter Monday) should not determine the dates of the school holiday around that time. Schools should close for a break of not less than two full weeks, to be taken as the first and second full calendar weeks of April.
7. The Easter weekend would always be recognised. Good Friday and Easter Monday would never fall as school days. In some years they would sit outside the two week April break.

However,

- where Easter fell outside this two week period, some flexibility might occasionally prove necessary to avoid a part week of 4 school days immediately

after the Easter weekend and before the April school holiday;

- where Easter fell at the beginning or at the end of the two week April break, consideration would be given to adding the Thursday before Good Friday or the Tuesday after Easter Monday to the holiday period, to recognise that more families may travel away from home for holidays when Easter was positioned in this way, and it would be appropriate to try alleviate traffic problems etc in many areas.

8. The school holiday at the end of May should take place in the week beginning with the Late Spring Bank Holiday Monday, and should last for one school week.