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Consultation Document

Harmonising school term dates for 2016/17

Term dates proposals for all maintained schools
in Wales for school year 2016/17

Date of issue: **10 November 2014**

Action required: Responses by **2 February 2015**

Harmonising school term dates for 2016/17

Overview

Local authorities were asked to send to the Welsh Government their 2016/17 school term dates for all maintained schools within their respective areas. This is as a result of the requirements of The Education (Notification of School Term Dates) (Wales) Regulations 2014 that came into force on 15 July 2014, and includes term dates set by voluntary aided and foundation schools as well the dates set by local authorities for all other maintained schools in their areas.

Welsh Government officials have collated the term dates sent in from across Wales, and have found that term dates are not yet harmonised. As a result, Welsh Ministers wish to consider using their powers in the Education Act 2002 to harmonise term dates for the school year 2016/17. Under the 2002 Act and the Education (Consultation on School Term Dates) (Wales) Regulations 2014 the Welsh Ministers are required to consult on their proposals for harmonised term dates.

This consultation document seeks your views on the proposed dates for 2016/17 and the related draft direction set out below.

How to respond

Responses to this consultation should be e-mailed/posted to the address below to arrive by **2 February 2015** at the latest.

Further information and related documents

Large print, Braille and alternative language versions of this document are available on request.

The consultation documents can be accessed from the Welsh Government's website at www.wales.gov.uk/consultations

Education (Wales) Act 2014
www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2014/5/contents/enacted

The Education Act 2002
www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/32/contents

The Education (Notification of School Term Dates)(Wales) Regulations 2014
www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2014/1249/contents/made

The Education (Consultation on School Term Dates)(Wales) Regulations 2014
www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2014/1462/contents/made

Contact details

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Data protection**How the views and information you give us will be used**

Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about. It may also be seen by other Welsh Government staff to help them plan future consultations.

The Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. This helps to show that the consultation was carried out properly. If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this in writing when you send your response. We will then blank them out.

Names or addresses we blank out might still get published later, though we do not think this would happen very often. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 allow the public to ask to see information held by many public bodies, including the Welsh Government. This includes information which has not been published. However, the law also allows us to withhold information in some circumstances. If anyone asks to see information we have withheld, we will have to decide whether to release it or not. If someone has asked for their name and address not to be published, that is an important fact we would take into account. However, there might sometimes be important reasons why we would have to reveal someone's name and address, even though they have asked for them not to be published. We would get in touch with the person and ask their views before we finally decided to reveal the information.

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1. Ministerial foreword

As the Minister for Education and Skills, I am aware of the difficulties faced by many families across Wales as a result of variations in school term dates and therefore school holidays.

In order to address these concerns I used the Education (Wales) Act 2014 to make legislative changes to term date- setting in order to enable harmonisation of school term dates for all maintained schools in Wales.

These changes mean that I am able to direct local authorities and the governing bodies of voluntary aided and foundation schools on what their term dates must be if those dates are not harmonised, or if they need changing. However, before making such a direction it is necessary to carry out an appropriate consultation on the term dates which I am proposing to set.

The proposals for these dates and a draft direction are published below for consultation. Your contributions will help to ensure that we get the right set of dates in place for our maintained schools in Wales. I therefore invite and welcome views from all key stakeholders on the suggested dates put forward in this consultation.



Huw Lewis AM
Minister for Education and Skills

2. Introduction

- 2.1 The Education (Wales) Act 2014 (“the 2014 Act”) made changes to term date setting in Wales by inserting new Wales-only legislation into the Education Act 2002 (“the 2002 Act”). As a result, while local authorities and the governing bodies of voluntary aided and foundation schools (“relevant governing bodies”) retain the right to set term dates for their schools, they are now also under a duty to work together when setting term dates so that those dates are the same or as similar as possible. If, despite best efforts, term date are not agreed then the 2002 Act now gives Welsh Ministers the power to “step in” and direct local authorities and relevant governing bodies on what their term dates must be, so that term date harmonisation across Wales is achieved.
- 2.2 Provisions in the 2002 Act mean that local authorities have to inform the Welsh Ministers of the term dates set for all maintained schools (including voluntary aided and foundation schools) within their respective areas, and the Welsh Ministers have a regulation-making power to provide for how and by when local authorities are to notify them of those dates.
- 2.3 The Education (Notification of School Term Dates) (Wales) Regulations 2014 (“the Notification Regulations”) came into force on the 15 July 2014. As a result, the first school year for which local authorities must notify the Welsh Ministers of the term dates set for all maintained schools within their areas is 2016/17. The Regulations also mean that the term dates for 2016/17 are to be provided by the final working day in August (in this case, 29th August 2014).
- 2.4 Welsh Government officials have now collated the dates sent in for local authorities and voluntary aided and foundation schools across Wales and have found that term dates are not yet harmonised. Therefore, the Welsh Ministers wish to consider using their powers of direction inserted by the 2014 Act into the 2002 Act to ensure that term dates are harmonised across Wales for the school year 2016/17.
- 2.5 However, before they may use their powers of direction the 2002 Act places the Welsh Ministers under a duty to carry out an appropriate consultation. In addition, the Education (Consultation on School Term Dates)(Wales) Regulations 2014 (“the Consultation Regulations”) - which are made under powers now contained in the 2002 Act set out further requirements on the form and length of consultation which must be undertaken by the Welsh Ministers before they use their powers on term date setting.
- 2.6 This consultation document has been created as a result of the Welsh Ministers’ duty to consult in the 2002 Act, and the detailed provisions in the Consultation Regulations. It seeks your views on the term dates that Welsh Ministers propose will apply to all maintained schools in

Wales for the school year 2016/17, and the related draft direction in the Annex.

3. Analysis of term dates notifications received

Notifications received for schools that have their term dates set by local authorities

- 3.1 All but one local authority in Wales sent in notifications of 2016/17 term dates for the community, voluntary controlled, community special and maintained nursery schools for which they have the responsibility to set term dates (“regular schools”).
- 3.2 All the local authorities in South Wales have chosen a specific set of term dates, so term dates for the regular schools in South Wales are harmonised with each other.
- 3.3 All the local authorities in North Wales have also chosen a specific set of dates, so term dates for the regular schools in North Wales are also harmonised with each other. However, the dates set in North Wales do not always agree with those in South Wales.
- 3.4 In Mid and West Wales there is some harmonisation of regular school term dates between local authorities, but the dates for the beginning and ending of the school year are not quite the same. In addition, these dates differ somewhat to those in North and South Wales.
- 3.5 All local authorities which sent in term dates notifications set the Easter break so that their schools would break up on Friday 7th April 2017, and would not therefore be in school during Holy Week (Good Friday in 2017 will be on 14th April).

Notifications received for voluntary aided and foundation schools (These figures are based on notifications received as at midday on 7th October 2014)

- 3.6 There was a mixed response rate in relation to receipt of term date notifications for voluntary aided and foundation schools across Wales. Out of 167 such schools signed notifications¹ of term dates set for 2016/17 have been received for only 70 schools, which represents just under 42%.
- 3.7 From the signed notifications received by the Welsh Government it can be seen that, while there is some degree of variation in the term dates set for voluntary aided and foundation schools across Wales, 61 of these schools (which represents 87% of the voluntary aided and foundation schools for which the Welsh Government received notifications) were content to agree to the same term dates set by their local authority.

¹ It is a requirement of the Notification Regulations that notification of term dates for voluntary aided and foundation schools must be signed by the chair or vice chair of the school’s governing body.

- 3.8 However, in Wales there are 86 Roman Catholic voluntary aided schools from which we received 37 signed notifications of term dates. Of these, 9 were not content to have the same Easter break as their local authorities, and instead preferred to select dates that meant that they would continue in school during Holy Week i.e. up to and including Maundy Thursday (13th April 2017). Nevertheless, this means that 28 or just fewer than 76% of the signed notifications we received relating to Roman Catholic schools showed that these schools were content to align with their local authority and break up for Easter before the start of Holy Week.
- 3.9 Even taking into account the unverified information we have received for Catholic schools - usually in the form of unsigned notifications of term dates and provisional information from local authorities or the schools themselves - this would still mean that an overall majority of Catholic schools are content to align their Easter break with that of their local authority. This is because of the 11 instances of unverified information 7 were content to align term dates with their local authority, while 4 were not. Including this information with the signed notifications received, means that we have information on the term dates preferences for 48 Catholic schools of which 35 or just under 73% are content to align their term dates with those of their local authority, and not remain in school during Holy Week.
- 3.10 As a result of these statistics, we believe that it is reasonable to propose term dates for 2016/17 which have all schools breaking up for Easter before the start of Holy Week. However, should responses to this consultation illustrate that this is unacceptable, the Welsh Ministers could reconsider this proposal.
- 3.11 All Church in Wales schools for which both signed notifications and unverified information have been received are content to align their term dates with their local authority.
- 3.12 Welsh Ministers have considered all signed notifications and unverified information very carefully and have decided to propose a set of dates that they believe takes into account some aspects of term dates from each main region in Wales. The Welsh Ministers also believe the proposed dates reflect the opinions of the majority of voluntary aided and foundation schools around the Easter break.

4. The term dates proposed for 2016/17 and related draft direction

- 4.1 From considering points 3.1 to 3.12 above Welsh Ministers propose the school term dates set out below for 2016/17:

<u>First day of school year</u>	Thursday, 1st September 2016
<u>Autumn half term holiday</u>	Monday, 24th October 2016 to Friday, 28th October 2016
<u>Christmas holiday</u>	Monday, 19th December 2016 to Monday, 2nd January 2017 (i.e. return to school on Tuesday 3rd January 2017)
<u>Spring half term</u>	Monday, 20th February 2017 to Friday, 24th February 2017
<u>Easter holiday</u>	Monday, 10th April 2017 to Friday, 21st April 2017
<u>Summer half term</u>	Monday, 29th May 2017 to Friday, 2nd June 2017
<u>Final day in school</u>	Friday, 21st July 2017

- 4.2 Depending upon the outcome of this consultation, the draft direction which the Welsh Ministers propose to make to ensure that term dates are harmonised for all maintained schools in Wales for the school year 2016-17 is in the Annex.

5. Consultation questions

In relation to these term dates proposals, the Welsh Government would welcome your views on the following questions. Please use the template provided in this consultation to record your answers.

Annex: Draft direction and ancillary documentation

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM AND DIRECTION TO ALL LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN WALES AND ALL SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES OF VOLUNTARY AIDED AND FOUNDATION SCHOOLS IN WALES UNDER SECTION 32B OF THE EDUCATION ACT 2002

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Introduction and Background

- 1) The Welsh Ministers have powers of direction under section 32B(1) of the Education Act 2002 (“the 2002 Act”).
- 2) The purpose of this document is to provide a public and transparent statement on the decision of the Welsh Ministers to issue a direction and to outline how the Welsh Ministers will determine the school term dates for all maintained schools in Wales. It is also designed to set out for citizens, members, officers and partners of local authorities and the governing bodies of voluntary aided and foundation schools (“relevant governing bodies”) the purpose and effect of the direction.
- 3) Section 42 of the Education (Wales) Act 2014 (“the 2014 Act”) made changes to term date setting for maintained schools in Wales by inserting new sections 32A to 32C into the 2002 Act. As a result, local authorities retain the right to set term dates for community, voluntary controlled, community special and maintained nursery schools. Also, relevant governing bodies retain the right to set term dates for their schools. A local authority is under a duty to co-operate and co-ordinate with each relevant governing body in its area and every other local authority in Wales when setting term dates so that those dates are the same or as similar as can be. Similarly a relevant governing body is under a duty to co-operate and co-ordinate with every other relevant governing body in its local authority area and the local authority in whose area it is situated when setting term dates so that those dates are the same or as similar as can be.
- 4) The term “maintained school” is defined in section 32A(9) of the 2002 Act and includes a school in Wales which is a community, foundation or voluntary school (including voluntary controlled and voluntary aided schools), a community special school or a maintained nursery school. That section further defines “term dates” to mean the dates on which school terms and holidays are to begin and end.

- 5) If, despite best efforts, term date are not agreed then section 32B(1) of the 2002 Act gives Welsh Ministers the power to direct local authorities and relevant governing bodies on what their term dates must be.
- 6) Section 32A(5) of the 2002 Act provides that local authorities have to inform the Welsh Ministers of the term dates they have determined for all maintained schools within their respective areas. Regulations made pursuant to section 32A(6) of the 2002 Act set out the detail of how that notification is to be provided. Accordingly the effect of the Education (Notification of School Term Dates) (Wales) Regulations 2014 (“the Notification Regulations”) is that the first school year for which local authorities must notify the Welsh Ministers of the term dates set for all maintained schools within their areas is 2016/17. The Notification Regulations provide that the term dates for 2016/17 are to be provided by the final working day in August (in this case, 29th August 2014).
- 7) Local authorities and relevant governing bodies were first informed of the need to start working together to agree term dates for the school year 2016-17 by letter from the Minister for Education and Skills on the 2nd July 2013. The letter further explained that local authorities and relevant governing bodies would need to begin working together immediately to agree term dates for that school year by the late summer of 2014.
- 8) The Welsh Ministers carried out a 12-week consultation from the 9th September to the 29th November 2013 on policy proposals for the Notification Regulations, which included details of the notice which must be completed by local authorities to inform the Welsh Ministers of the term dates which had been set for all maintained schools – including voluntary aided and foundation schools - within their areas.
- 9) That consultation also set out proposals that the first school year for which local authorities would need to inform the Welsh Ministers of term dates would be 2016-17, and that all notifications would need to be provided by the final working day in August two full years prior to the start of the school year. In the case of 2016-17, the consultation specified that this would mean that all notifications would need to be received by the 29th August 2014.
- 10) Welsh Government officials sent an email reminder of the need to work together when setting term dates for the school year 2016-17 onwards to all local authorities and relevant governing bodies following the completion of the 2014 Act’s passage through the National Assembly for Wales. This included a link to the draft form of notification to be used when informing the Welsh Ministers of the term dates which had been set. A further email reminder was sent by Welsh Government officials to local authorities following the 2014 Act receiving Royal assent on the 12th May 2014, and an article was placed in the Welsh Government’s online school news magazine which is available to all maintained schools in Wales.

- 11) In order to aid local authorities, the Notification Regulations also provide that notifications can be completed and forwarded electronically to the Welsh Ministers. As the chair or vice chair of a relevant governing body should sign the notification for their school as well as the appropriate local authority director of education, the Regulations also provide that partial notices containing term dates for one or more schools may be used.
- 12) The Welsh Ministers have now received notifications of the term dates which have been determined for 2016-17 for community, voluntary controlled, community special and maintained nursery schools (i.e. schools for which the local authority has the responsibility to determine term dates) from all but one local authority. However, not many of the local authorities have been able to provide signed notifications for the entire voluntary aided and faith schools within their respective areas.
- 13) From those notices which have been received by the Welsh Ministers they consider that the term dates are not the same (or as similar as can be) across Wales for the school year 2016-17. Therefore, in order to ensure that term dates are the same for all maintained schools in Wales so that families do not face problems with finding and financing additional child care when term dates are not harmonised, Welsh Ministers propose to use their powers of direction.

Analysis of term date notifications received as at midday on 7 October 2014

Notifications from local authorities in Wales:

- 14) Welsh Government officials have now collated the proposed dates sent in for local authorities and voluntary aided and foundation schools across Wales and have found that term dates are not the same (or as similar as can be). Those local authorities who forwarded notifications for their community, voluntary controlled, community special and maintained nursery schools for which they set term dates have been divided into 4 different groups in order to analyse the term dates set and these are set out in Annex A. The dates submitted to the Welsh Ministers are set out in Annex B.
- 15) All but one local authority sent in notifications for 2016/17 term dates for the maintained schools for which they have the responsibility to set term dates.
- 16) All the local authorities in group A (South Wales) have set term dates for the schools for which they set the term dates that are the same as each other.
- 17) All the local authorities in local authority group B (those that are in the North Wales area) have set term dates that are the same. However,

the dates set in local authority group B (North Wales) are not always the same as those in local authority group A (South Wales).

- 18) For local authorities in local authority group C and local authority group D (those that are in the Mid and West Wales area), as can be seen from Annex B the dates for the beginning and ending of the school year are not the same, and these dates differ somewhat to those in local authority group B (North Wales) local authority group A (South Wales).
- 19) All local authorities in Wales which notified the Welsh Ministers of their term dates set the Easter break so that their schools would break up on Friday 7th April 2017, and would not therefore be in school during Holy Week (Good Friday in 2017 will be on 14th April).

Notifications from relevant governing bodies:

- 20) There was a mixed response rate in relation to receipt of term date notifications from relevant governing bodies across Wales. Out of 167 voluntary aided and foundation schools signed notifications of term dates set for 2016/17 have been received for only 70 schools, which represents just fewer than 42%.
- 21) From the notifications received by the Welsh Government, while there is some degree of variation in the term dates set for voluntary aided and foundation schools across Wales, 61 of these schools (which represents 87% of the voluntary aided and foundation schools for which the Welsh Government received notifications) were content to agree to the same term dates set by their local authority for those schools which it is responsible for setting term dates (community, voluntary controlled, community special and maintained nursery schools).
- 22) However, in Wales there are 86 Roman Catholic voluntary aided schools, from which we received 37 signed notifications of term dates. Of these, 9 were not content to have the same Easter break as their local authorities, and instead preferred to select dates that meant that they would continue in school during Holy Week i.e. up to and including Maundy Thursday (13th April 2017). Nevertheless, this means that 28 or just fewer than 76% of the notifications we received relating to Roman Catholic schools showed that these schools were content to align with their local authority and break up for Easter before the start of Holy Week.
- 23) Even taking into account the unverified information we have received for Catholic schools (usually in the form of unsigned notifications of term dates and provisional information from local authorities or the schools themselves) this would still mean that an overall majority of Catholic schools are content to align their Easter break with that of their local authority. This is because of these 11 instances of unverified information 7 were content to align term dates with their local authority,

while 4 were not. Including this information with the signed notifications we have, it means that we have information on the term dates preferences for 48 Catholic schools of which 35 or just under 73% are content to align their term dates with those of their local authority, and not remain in school during Holy Week.

24) All Church in Wales schools for which signed notifications were received were content to align their term dates with their local authority.

Conclusion

25) Welsh Ministers have considered all notifications very carefully and have decided to propose a set of term dates that they believe takes into account some aspects of term dates from each main region in Wales, and reflect the opinions of the majority of voluntary aided and foundation schools around the Easter break.

26) Specifically as a result of these statistics the Welsh Ministers consider that it is reasonable to propose term dates for 2016/17 which have all schools breaking up for Easter before the start of Holy Week.

27) The Welsh Ministers are, therefore, satisfied that the direction should be issued to all local authorities in Wales and all relevant governing bodies in Wales. This direction is required to ensure that term dates in Wales are the same.

28) The Welsh Ministers have conscientiously taken into account the views of relevant stakeholders in considering whether to make this direction. The Welsh Ministers believe that it is appropriate to use their powers of direction to ensure that term dates for all maintained schools across Wales are the same. This is to ensure that those families who would otherwise have to find and often finance additional child care due to term dates not being harmonised do not have to do so.

29) For example, if term dates are not harmonised then families with children in schools within different local authority areas, or with one child in a voluntary controlled school and another in a voluntary aided or foundation school, may need to find additional child care. This may mean a parent taking time off work and losing holiday entitlement or part of their salary as a result. Alternatively it may mean families having to find the money to pay for additional childcare from an already tight family budget.

30) By harmonizing school term dates for all maintained schools across Wales the Welsh Ministers can ensure that families do not face the difficulties described in the paragraph above.

Approach

31) In deciding whether and how to intervene, the Welsh Ministers have taken into account the following principles:

- a. The issue of a direction under section 35B(1) of the 2002 Act should be a last resort. The Welsh Ministers recognise that this direction is a serious step and have not taken the decision to issue it lightly. The Welsh Ministers are satisfied that it is reasonable to determine term dates so that they are the same for all maintained schools in Wales. The Welsh Ministers have allowed adequate time for local authorities and relevant governing bodies to agree dates between themselves. It is therefore satisfied that this direction is justified.
- b. Intervention should be proportionate. The term dates set out by the Welsh Ministers in the direction apply for the 2016/2017 school year. This gives everybody affected by those date adequate opportunity to plan accordingly. The Welsh Ministers have not set term dates for any other school years and local authorities and governing bodies will still be expected to seek to agree term dates that are the same (or as similar as possible). The term dates directed by the Welsh Ministers take into account some aspects of the term dates set by each main region in Wales (North, South, Mid and West Wales).

Ongoing Review of the Direction

32) It is open for the Welsh Ministers to revoke or amend the direction at any time and its effectiveness will be reviewed by the Welsh Ministers from time to time.

Enforcement of the Direction

33) The effect of the Direction is to oblige local authorities and relevant governing bodies to set the term dates for all schools in Wales as set out in the direction.

Signed by.....

Huw Lewis AM
Minister for Education and Skills, one of the Welsh Ministers

Date: **(insert date)** 2014

DIRECTION

- 1) The Welsh Ministers having considered all the information set out in the Explanatory Memorandum are satisfied that the term dates determined by local authorities in Wales and the governing bodies of voluntary aided or foundation schools are not the same (or as similar as can be).
- 2) The Welsh Ministers consider that it is reasonable that the term dates should be the same. Accordingly, the Welsh Ministers direct the local authorities in Wales and the relevant governing bodies in Wales to determine the term dates for the school year 2016/17 as set out in the Schedule to this direction.
- 3) This direction is made without prejudice to any future directions by the Welsh Ministers.
- 4) This direction comes into effect at 9am on the day after it is signed.

Signed by.....

Huw Lewis AM
Minister for Education and Skills, one of the Welsh Ministers

Date: **(insert date)** 2014

SCHEDULE

TERM DETERMINED BY THE WELSH MINISTERS FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2016/2017

First day of school year	Thursday 1 st September 2016
Autumn half term holiday	Monday 24 th October 2016 to Friday 28 th October 2016
Christmas holiday	Monday 19 th December 2016 to Monday 2 nd January 2017 (i.e. return to school on Tuesday 3 rd January 2017)
Spring half term	Monday 20 th February 2017 to Friday 24 th February 2017
Easter holiday	Monday 10 th April 2017 to Friday 21 st April 2017
Summer half term	Monday 29 th May 2017 to Friday 2 nd June 2017
Final day in school	Friday 21 st July 2017

ANNEX A

NOTIFICATIONS OF TERM DATES AGREED

<u>Local Authority Groupings</u>		
<u>Local Authority Group A</u>	<u>Local Authority Group B</u>	<u>Local Authority Group C</u>
Blaenau Gwent	Conwy	Ceredigion
Bridgend	Denbighshire	Pembrokeshire
Caerphilly	Flintshire	
Cardiff	Gwynedd	
Merthyr Tydfil	Wrexham	
Monmouthshire	Ynys Môn	
Neath Port Talbot		
Newport		
Rhondda Cynon Taff		
Swansea		
Torfaen		
Vale of Glamorgan		
<u>Local Authority Group D</u>		
Powys		

ANNEX B

GROUPINGS OF LOCAL AUTHORITY

Annex – Local authority school term/holiday dates for 2016/17				
School term/holiday dates	Local authority group A	Local authority group B	Local authority group C	Local authority group D
<i>First day of school year 2016-17</i>	Monday 5 th September 2016	Thursday 1 st September 2016	Monday 5 th September 2016	Friday 2 nd September 2016
<i>Autumn half term holiday (i.e. dates when <u>not</u> in school)</i>	Monday 24 th October 2016 to Friday 28 th October 2016	Monday 31 st October 2016 to Friday 4 th November 2016	Monday 31 st October 2016 to Friday 4 th November 2016	Monday 31 st October 2016 to Friday 4 th November 2016
<i>Christmas holiday (i.e. dates when <u>not</u> in school)</i>	Monday 19 th December 2016 to Monday 2 nd January 2017 (i.e. return to school Tuesday 3 rd January 2017)	Monday 26 th December to Friday 6 th January 2017 (i.e. break up for Christmas on Friday 23 rd December 2016)	Monday 26 th December to Friday 6 th January 2017 (i.e. break up for Christmas on Friday 23 rd December 2016)	Monday 26 th December to Friday 6 th January 2017 (i.e. break up for Christmas on Friday 23 rd December 2016)
<i>Spring half term holiday (i.e. dates when <u>not</u> in school)</i>	Monday 20 th February 2017 to Friday 24 th February 2017	Monday 20 th February 2017 to Friday 24 th February 2017	Monday 20 th February 2017 to Friday 24 th February 2017	Monday 20 th February 2017 to Friday 24 th February 2017
<i>Easter holiday (i.e. dates when <u>not</u> in school)</i>	Monday 10 th April 2017 to Friday 21 st April 2017	Monday 10 th April 2017 to Friday 21 st April 2017	Monday 10 th April 2017 to Friday 21 st April 2017	Monday 10 th April 2017 to Friday 21 st April 2017
<i>Summer half term (i.e. dates when <u>not</u> in school)</i>	Monday 29 th May 2017 to Friday 2 nd June 2017	Monday 29 th May 2017 to Friday 2 nd June 2017	Monday 29 th May 2017 to Friday 2 nd June 2017	Monday 29 th May 2017 to Friday 2 nd June 2017
<i>Final day of school year 2016-17</i>	Tuesday 25 th July 2017	Thursday 20 th July 2017	Monday 24 th July 2017	Friday 21 st July 2017

