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Consultation Document

Harmonising school term dates for 2017/18

Term dates proposals for all maintained schools in
Wales for school year 2017/18

Date of issue: **9 November 2015**

Action required: Responses by **1 February 2016**

Harmonising school term dates for 2017/18

Overview

Local authorities were asked to send to the Welsh Government their 2017/18 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 2017/18. 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 2017/18 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 **1 February 2016** at the latest.

Further information and related documents

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

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

Since I became Minister for Education and Skills I have been aware of the difficulties and increased costs faced by many families in having to fund additional child care costs 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.

The 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.

I used these powers for the first time for the school year 2016/17 following carefully consideration of signed notifications received from 21 local authorities and for 70 voluntary aided and foundations schools, along with unverified information received including unsigned notifications. I also considered responses to a 12 week consultation. My direction to local authorities and schools setting the 2016/17 term dates was issued on 24 June 2015.

Notifications have now been received from all 22 local authorities and on behalf of a large number of governing bodies of voluntary aided and foundation schools on their proposed term dates for 2017/18. I have been encouraged by the increased level of harmonisation achieved in comparison with the previous year. I am also pleased with the increased response rate from local authorities in respect of voluntary aided and foundation schools. It is clear from notifications received that a significant amount of work has been undertaken by authorities and schools to achieve harmonisation. However despite their best efforts term dates have not been harmonised and I will therefore consider using my powers under the Act once again, to achieve harmonisation for the 2017/18 school year.

This consultation sets out the term dates I propose to set for the school year 2017/18. I therefore invite and welcome views from all key stakeholders on the suggested dates put forward in this consultation and the draft direction.



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 Wales-only legislation into the Education Act 2002 (“the 2002 Act”). As a result, whilst 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 also now under a duty to co-operate and co-ordinate with each other to ensure that those dates are the same or as similar as possible. If, despite best efforts, term dates are not agreed then the 2002 Act provides Welsh Ministers with the power to “step in” and direct local authorities and relevant governing bodies on what their term dates must be, so that term dates are harmonised across Wales.
- 2.2 Provisions in the 2002 Act require local authorities 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. These regulations place a duty on local authorities to notify the Welsh Ministers of the term dates set for all maintained schools within their areas by the final working day in August (in this case, for 2017/18 term dates, by 28 August 2015).
- 2.4 Welsh Government officials have now collated and analysed the dates sent in for all local authorities and for a majority of 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 to ensure that term dates are harmonised across Wales for the school year 2017/18.
- 2.5 However, before doing so, Welsh Ministers are 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 ensures the Welsh Ministers’ compliance with the 2014 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 2017/18, 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 22 local authorities in Wales submitted notifications of 2017/18 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”). There were two distinct groups this year compared to four the previous year. The dates that have been set by both groupings of local authorities are contained in Annex B of the draft direction on page 18.
- 3.3 Local Authority Group A contains all the authorities in South Wales, along with three authorities in mid and West Wales, these being Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire. Anglesey in North Wales is also included in this grouping. Local Authority Group B includes Powys and five of the six North Wales authorities, these being Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd and Wrexham.
- 3.5 It should be noted that there is some harmonisation between the dates set by both Groups, these being the Autumn half term in 2017 which is set as 30 October to 3 November; the Christmas holiday set as 25 December 2017 to 5 January 2018 and the summer 2018 half term holiday set as 28 May to 1 June.
- 3.6 However the term dates for the remaining school holidays differ in that the first day of the school year in 2017 has been set as 4 September (a Monday) by Group A, whilst Group B has set it earlier at 1 September (the preceding Friday). In addition the spring half term in 2018 is set as 19 February to 23 February by Group A whilst Group B has set this a week earlier at 12 February – 16 February.
- 3.7 With regards to the Easter holiday in 2018 Group A has set the holiday as Friday 30 March to Friday 13 April, (11 days break). Group B has set the holiday as from Monday 26 March to Friday 6 April (10 days). Group B term dates would involve schools being shut during Holy Week 2018, which starts Sunday, March 25 and ends Saturday March 31. Group A dates are set so schools will remain open during Holy Week up to and including Maundy Thursday on 29 March.
- 3.8 The final day of the school year in 2018 also differs between the two groupings with Group A set as Tuesday, 24 July and Group B as Friday 20 July.
- 3.9 There is little difference in respect of the length of terms between the two groupings. From the 195 days (190 teaching and 5 INSET days) Group A has set its Autumn term 2017 at 75 days, Spring term 2018 at 54 days and Summer term 2018 at 66 days. In comparison Group B has set term lengths at 76, 50 and 69 days respectively.

***Notifications received for voluntary aided and foundation schools
(These figures are based on notifications received midday on 12th
October 2015)***

- 3.10 The second year of the new term date setting arrangements saw a significant increase in the number of term date notifications returned by local authorities on behalf of voluntary aided and foundation schools within their areas. As of October 2015, 107 signed notifications had been returned (from the total of 168 schools) (64%). This compares with 70 notifications received from the total 167 such schools the previous year, i.e. an increase of 22%.
- 3.11 All 107 signed notices aligned with their respective local authorities. Analysis of these notifications indicate that there are only two category grouping of dates for 2017/18. Of the 107 notifications received 72 of these aligned with their authorities in Group A while the other 35 aligned with their authorities in Group B.
- 3.12 Of the 72 aligned with Group A, 47 (65%) of these were Roman Catholic Schools. Of the 35 notifications received from Group B, only 15 of these (42%) were Roman Catholic Schools.
- 3.13 In terms of unverified term dates, there were a further 20 voluntary aided or foundation schools where term dates were provided. Usually these were unsigned, incomplete or confirmed via the local authority. Two schools in Cardiff provided unsigned dates that did not align with their local authority. There were a few differences with the start and end of the school year and start of spring term.
- 3.14 In coordinating all term dates returns, Welsh Ministers understand that the task of coordinating term dates and providing them to the Welsh Government is a harder task for some local authorities than others, depending on the number of VA/foundation schools in their authority area.
- 3.15 Most local authorities returned some notifications from the voluntary aided or foundation schools in their areas. Notably ten local authorities (Anglesey, Flintshire, Gwynedd, Merthyr Tydfil, Monmouthshire, Newport, Pembrokeshire, Swansea, Vale of Glamorgan and Wrexham) returned signed dates for all of their VA or foundation schools.
- 3.16 Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend, Cardiff, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Conwy, Neath Port Talbot, Rhondda Cynon Taff and Torfaen sent some signed notifications for some of their schools or provided either unsigned or incomplete notices or emails to confirm that these schools were content to align with their local authority even though they had not provided a signed notice.

3.17 There were no signed notices supplied for the VA/foundation schools in the areas of Caerphilly, Denbighshire or Powys, although one unsigned notification was provided by Caerphilly.

Harmonisation of school term dates for 2017/18 between regional consortia

3.18 There was also some evidence of consortia working to harmonise term dates for 2017/18. Both the Central South consortium Joint Education Service and EAS - South East Wales Education Achievement Service are harmonised with all their member authorities being grouped in Local Authority Group A. This accounts for 10 local authorities.

3.19 South West and Mid Wales (ERW) are mostly harmonised, all of their member authorities being in Group A apart from Powys who are in Group B.

3.20 The member authorities in the GwE (North Wales) regional consortia were mostly aligned to Group B, however, Anglesey local authority were the only to align with Group A.

Conclusion

3.21 Encouragingly there is significantly more evidence of harmonisation achieved from this exercise for the 2017/18 term dates compared with the previous exercise for harmonised term dates for 2016/17. There has also been a much better response from local authorities and schools in terms of overall notifications received.

3.22 The Welsh Ministers considered all notifications very carefully and have decided to propose that all maintained schools in Wales adopt the term dates set by the local authorities in Group A for the following reasons:

- The majority of local authorities set term dates in Group A, - sixteen compared to only 6 that set dates in Group B.
- The majority of Voluntary aided and foundation schools for which notifications were returned set dates in Group A - seventy two compared to thirty five that set dates in Group B.
- Amongst these the majority of Roman Catholic schools set dates in Group A - forty seven compared to 15 that set dates in Group B.
- The Easter dates proposed by Group A would result in Roman Catholic schools remaining open during Holy Week in 2018.
- The dates set by Group A may be seen as directly favouring the more urban South Wales local authority areas. However, more rural areas, such as Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire, and one local authority in

North Wales, Anglesey, have chosen to align with the majority in Group A.

- The dates of the Royal Welsh show have yet to be published. However, Powys has set dates in Group B which would involve schools closing for the summer break 2018 on 20 July, before the likely start of the Show on 23 July (if we are correct with our assumption of the dates in the absence of any firm dates on the Show's website). However, bordering authorities such as Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion have aligned with Group A which would involve their schools being open for the first two days of the Show - Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 July.
- Welsh Ministers regard very highly the significant cultural and economic value of the Royal Welsh Show and have considered the impact of the Show very carefully in these proposals. However, teachers and pupils will have opportunities to attend the event on two days of the Show.
- The Welsh Government appreciates of the efforts of local authorities and voluntary aided and foundation schools in working together to achieve harmonisation. To propose dates that go against a significant majority would devalue these efforts. In considering this and the other points stated above, Welsh Ministers consider it reasonable to propose the harmonised term dates which coincide with Group A as set out in section 4 below.

4. The term dates proposed for 2017/18 and related draft direction

- 4.1 In considering the points in paragraph 3.22 above Welsh Ministers propose the school term dates set out below for 2017/18:

<u>First day of school year</u>	Monday, 4th September 2017
<u>Autumn half term holiday</u>	Monday, 30th October 2017 to Friday, 3rd November 2017
<u>Christmas holiday</u>	Monday, 25th December 2017 to Friday 5th January 2018
<u>Spring half term</u>	Monday, 19th February 2018 to Friday, 23rd February 2018
<u>Easter holiday</u>	Friday, 30th March 2018 (i.e. final day in school Thursday 29th March) to Friday, 13th April 2018
<u>Summer half term</u>	Monday, 28th May 2018 to Friday, 1st June 2018
<u>Final day in school</u>	Tuesday, 24th July 2018

- 4.2 These dates are reflected in the draft direction annexed, which the Welsh Ministers propose to issue, subject to consultation responses, to ensure that term dates are harmonised for all maintained schools in Wales for the school year 2017-18 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 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. 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 dates are not agreed then section 32B(1) of the 2002 Act gives the 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 must inform the Welsh Ministers of the term dates they have determined for all maintained schools within their respective areas. Regulations made under section 32A(6) of the 2002 Act set out the detail of how that notification is to be provided. The Education (Notification of School Term Dates) (Wales) Regulations 2014 (“the Notification Regulations”) provide that the term dates for 2017/18 are to be provided by the final working day in August (in this case, 28th August 2015).
- 7) 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 Notification Regulations also provide that partial notices containing term dates for one or more schools may be used.
- 8) As a result of the harmonising of term dates exercise in 2014/15, for the very first time term dates will be harmonised in Wales for school year 2016/17. A link to the Ministerial Statement advising this is attached below.

<http://gov.wales/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2015/schoolterm1617/?lang=en>
- 9) The Welsh Government wrote to all local authorities and voluntary aided and foundation schools on 10 July 2015 requesting that they work with other local authorities and the voluntary aided and foundation schools to set term dates and to advise Welsh Ministers what their proposed term dates would be by 28 August 2015.
- 10) Analysis of notices received by the Welsh Ministers indicates that despite best efforts term dates were not the same (or as similar as can be) across Wales for the school year 2017/18. Therefore, in order to harmonise term dates 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 proposed to use their powers of direction.

Analysis of term date notifications received as at midday on 12 October 2015

Notifications from local authorities in Wales:

- 11) All 22 local authorities returned notifications which had been determined for 2017-18 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 22 local authorities. .
- 12) There was also improvement in the level of harmonisation of term dates between local authorities. There were four different groups of terms dates

returned for the school year 2016/17 but only two variations in term dates for the school year 2017/18. (please see annex A below).

- 13) Local Authority Group A contains all South Wales Authorities, Anglesey, and Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire. Local Authority Group B contains five of the six North Wales authorities - Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd and Wrexham and Powys.

Notifications from relevant governing bodies:

- 14) There was also improvement from local authorities in providing signed notifications for their voluntary aided and foundation schools within their respective areas. For the school year 2016/17 only 70 such schools had signed notifications from 167 in total. For the school year 2017/18 this has risen to 107 from a total of 168 (as of September 2015). In percentage terms this is a rise from 42% in the school year 2016/17 to 64% in 2017/18.
- 15) For the school year 2017/18 there are no signed notifications from voluntary aided or foundation schools choosing dates that differ from their local authority.

Harmonisation between consortia

- 16) Both the Central South consortium Joint Education Service and South East Wales Education Achievement Service are harmonised with all their member authorities being grouped in Local Authority Group A.
- 17) All of the authorities in the South West and Mid Wales (ERW) consortia with the exception of Powys have harmonised with the dates in Group A as - Powys harmonised with dates in Group B.
- 18) With the exception of Anglesey the member authorities in the GwE regional consortia were aligned to the term dates in Group B, Anglesey harmonised with the term dates in Group A.

Conclusion

- 19) The Welsh Ministers considered all notifications very carefully and decided to propose that all maintained schools in Wales adopt the term dates set by the local authorities in Group A for the following reasons: The majority of local authorities set term dates in Group A, - sixteen compared to only 6 that set dates in Group B.
- The majority of Voluntary aided and foundation schools for which notifications were returned set dates in Group A - seventy two compared to thirty five that set dates in Group B.
 - Amongst these the majority of Roman Catholic schools set dates in Group A - forty seven compared to 15 that set dates in Group B.

- The Easter dates proposed by Group A would result in Roman Catholic schools remaining open during Holy Week in 2018.
- The dates set by Group A may be seen as directly favouring the more urban South Wales local authority areas. However, more rural areas, such as Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire, and one local authority in North Wales, Anglesey, have chosen to align with the majority in Group A.
- The dates of the Royal Welsh show have yet to be published. However, Powys has set dates in Group B which would involve schools closing for the summer break 2018 on 20 July, before the likely start of the Show on 23 July (if we are correct with our assumption of the dates in the absence of any firm dates on the Show's website). However, bordering authorities such as Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion have aligned with Group A which would involve their schools being open for the first two days of the Show Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 July.
- Welsh Ministers regard very highly the significant cultural and economic value of the Royal Welsh Show and have considered the impact of the Show very carefully in these proposals. However, teachers and pupils will have opportunities to attend the event on two days of the Show.
- The Welsh Government appreciates of the efforts of local authorities and voluntary aided and foundation schools in working together to achieve harmonisation. To propose dates that go against a significant majority would devalue these efforts. In considering this and the other points stated above, Welsh Ministers consider it reasonable to propose the harmonised term dates which coincide with Group A as in paragraph 20 below.

Consultation on proposed term dates for 2017/18 and Direction

20) Before using their powers of direction Welsh Ministers are under a duty to carry out an appropriate consultation in accordance with the Education (Consultation on School Term Dates) (Wales) Regulations 2014. Consequently a 12 week consultation on the term dates Welsh Ministers proposed to set ran from 9 November 2015 to 1 February 2016. The consultation asked whether the consultees agreed with our proposals for term dates for the school year 2017/18 and the proposed draft direction. The proposed dates for the school year 2017/18 on which Welsh Ministers consulted were:

First day of school year	Monday 4 th September 2017
Autumn half term holiday	Monday 30 th October 2017 to Friday 3 rd November 2017
Christmas holiday	Monday 25 th December 2017 to Friday 5 th January 2018
Spring half term	Monday 19 th February 2018 to Friday 23 th February 2018
Easter holiday	Friday 30 th March 2018 to Friday 13 th April 2018
Summer half term	Monday 28 th May 2018 to Friday 1 st June 2018
Final day in school	Tuesday 24 th July 2018

Summary of consultation responses

<To follow>

Approach

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

- a. 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. They have also undertaken an appropriate consultation of 12 weeks to seek views on the proposed dates and the direction. They are 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 2017/2018 school year. This gives everybody affected by those dates adequate opportunity to plan accordingly. The Welsh Ministers have not set term dates in this direction 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 set 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). They also take into account the responses received to a 12 week consultation on the proposed dates.

Ongoing Review of the Direction

22) 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

23) 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)** 2016

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). They have also undertaken an appropriate consultation on the proposed term dates the Welsh Ministers propose to set and taken into account consultation responses.
- 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)** 2016

SCHEDULE

TERM DATES DETERMINED BY THE WELSH MINISTERS FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2017/2018

First day of school year	Monday 4 th September 2017
Autumn half term holiday	Monday 30 th October 2017 to Friday 3 rd November 2017
Christmas holiday	Monday 25 th December 2017 to Friday 5 th January 2018
Spring half term	Monday 19 th February 2018 to Friday 23 th February 2018
Easter holiday	Friday 30 th March 2018 to Friday 13 th April 2018
Summer half term	Monday 28 th May 2018 to Friday 1 st June 2018
Final day in school	Tuesday 24 th July 2018

ANNEX A

NOTIFICATIONS OF TERM DATES AGREED

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

ANNEX B

GROUPINGS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Local authority school term/holiday dates for 2017/18		
School term/holiday dates	Local authority group A	Local authority group B
<i>First day of school year 2017-18</i>	Monday 4 th September 2017	Friday 1 st September 2017
<i>Autumn half term holiday (i.e. dates when pupils are <u>not</u> in school)</i>	Monday 30 th October 2017 to Friday 3 rd November 2017	Monday 30 th October 2017 to Friday 3 rd November 2017
<i>Christmas holiday (i.e. dates when pupils are <u>not</u> in school)</i>	Monday 25 th December 2017 to Friday 5 th January 2018	Monday 25 th December 2017 to Friday 5 th January 2018
<i>Spring half term holiday (i.e. dates when pupils are <u>not</u> in school)</i>	Monday 19 th February 2018 to Friday 23 rd February 2018	Monday 12 th February 2018 to Friday 16 th February 2018
<i>Easter holiday (i.e. dates when pupils are <u>not</u> in school)</i>	Friday 30 th March 2018 to Friday 13 th April 2018	Monday 26 th March 2018 to Friday 6 th April 2018
<i>Summer half term (i.e. dates when pupils are <u>not</u> in school)</i>	Monday 28 th May 2018 to Friday 1 st June 2018	Monday 28 th May 2018 to Friday 1 st June 2018
<i>Final day of school year 2017-18</i>	Tuesday 24 th July 2018	Friday 20 th July 2018