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Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

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Consultation Document

Proposals for additional INSET days

Consultation on future requirements for additional INSET days

Date of issue: **1 September 2010**

Action required: Responses by **27 October 2010**

Proposals for additional INSET days

Consultation on future requirements for additional INSET days

Overview

This consultation is designed to gather views on the Welsh Assembly Government's proposals for additional INSET days in the school year 2010/11, in order to inform decisions for this school year and consideration of longer-term requirements.

Additional INSET days are 'additional' to the five statutory non-teaching days available to schools.

How to respond

The Consultation Response form is available for completion as a separate Word document on the consultation home page. Responses to this consultation should be e-mailed to the INSETconsultation@wales.gsi.gov.uk consultation mailbox to arrive by **27 October 2010** at the latest.

Further information and related documents

Large print, Braille and alternate language versions of this document will be made available on request.

The consultation documents can be accessed on the Welsh Assembly Government website at www.wales.gov.uk/consultations

Contact details

For further information:

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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 Assembly Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about. It may also be seen by other Welsh Assembly Government staff to help them plan future consultations.

The Welsh Assembly 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 Assembly 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.

Scope of the consultation

This consultation seeks views on the provision of additional INSET days for maintained schools. The consultation refers to proposed arrangements for the school year 2010/11. The outcomes of the consultation will inform decisions for this school year and beyond.

Where are we now?

On 13 July 2010, the Welsh Assembly Government published a Written Statement on 'Closure of Schools in Bad Weather' on behalf of the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning. This statement includes the following reference to the provision of INSET days.

Schools have available five statutory non-teaching days. These days form part of the terms and conditions of teachers' employment. Head teachers may decide how best to use these days for their staff's professional development and in support of effective teaching, learning and assessment. During recent years, either one or two additional INSET days have been provided in each school year also. These days are made available at Ministerial discretion.

The full statement can be accessed from the Welsh Assembly Government website at www.wales.gov.uk (go to 'Cabinet Statements 2010' in the 'Cabinet and Ministers' area of the 'About' section of the site).

Additional INSET days in the school year 2010/11

The Minister has announced that schools will be provided with two additional INSET days in the school year 2010/11. This provision should assist schools to implement the School Effectiveness Framework.

Further information regarding the School Effectiveness Framework can be found at www.sefcymru.org/eng/sef-p2-home.htm

The winter of 2009/10 was characterised by prolonged periods of cold weather and heavy snowfall. In view of the resulting widespread disruption to some school days, the Minister has also considered how the two additional INSET days should compensate for lost teaching time, if schools again need to close because of severe weather conditions.

For the school year 2010/11, it is proposed that the Regulations covering additional INSET days should be amended to restrict their use to the summer term. Also, if any school teaching time is lost to bad weather, the two additional INSET days should be reduced pro-rata to one or none. These arrangements would ensure that headteachers can take account of learners' needs and parents' expectations, about teaching and learning, as well as the professional development of teachers. Therefore, in the school year 2010/11, proposals for the provision of two additional INSET days would afford opportunities for schools to recoup teaching time lost to bad weather.