

Hertfordshire Term Dates 2017/18 Consultation

Purpose of this consultation

Hertfordshire County Council is responsible for determining term dates for community and voluntary controlled schools. This is set out in section 32 of the Education Act (2002). Foundation, voluntary aided and academy schools are responsible for setting their own dates. The Education (School Day and School Year) Regulations 1999 requires that a calendar includes 380 sessions or 190 pupil days.

The County Council believes that there is benefit in a degree of commonality or co-ordination of school term and holiday dates across all Academy and Maintained schools. We are therefore seeking the view of all schools on these proposals, and not only community/voluntary controlled schools. Hertfordshire's dates are set based on the recommendations of the Working Party on Term Dates, which includes representatives from the head teacher associations and teaching unions and is chaired by the Assistant Director (Education Provision and Access). The Working Party makes their recommendations based on a set of principles which have been agreed with head teacher associations and the County Union Secretaries.

In recent years, the freedom that foundation, voluntary aided and academy schools have in setting term dates has led to increasing variation in school dates between schools, both across phases in any geographical area and within and between areas. Whilst the Government is not now intending to allow all community and VC schools to set their own term dates, the proportion of schools with this freedom continues to increase.

For understandable local reasons, often different schools do wish to adopt different patterns of school dates. Some schools also wish to explore the possible educational and other benefits of non-traditional holiday patterns. For these reasons, it no longer appears possible to set a calendar for Hertfordshire which fully takes into account difference between schools and which all schools will follow.

Consequently, the terms dates working party wishes to explore a move to a more flexible system, which provides a greater degree of local choice to schools to accommodate diverse needs, but also provides commonality as far as possible in areas where all or most schools seem comfortable to follow a single set of guidelines.

Proposal for 2017/18 Term Dates

In order to give some flexibility to community and voluntary controlled schools while retaining a calendar with a common core of holiday dates the Working Party on Term Dates proposes that the 2017/18 calendar includes a further five occasional days, over and above the existing one occasional day. These occasional days would be used as holidays with their timing at the discretion of the individual school. However, the key core dates round Christmas, Easter and the three half terms would be standard – though these could be lengthened by use of occasional days if schools wished.

In order to create five occasional days, a total of five holiday dates at the beginning/end of the year have been assigned as school days.

We would therefore propose to set as the formal school calendar the template calendar included as Appendix A. This has 201 school days with six occasional and five INSET days to be added. This would then result in a calendar with 190 school days as required. The appendices to this consultation paper are best viewed in colour.

Schools might then chose to add the occasional days back into the calendar at the start and end of the year to create a “traditional” model calendar (see appendix B) or could be used to extend the October half term by a week (see appendix C) as is practiced by some schools in the Broxbourne area and in other parts of England. Appendices B and C are examples of how the addition five occasional days could be used. We would encourage schools to discuss and agree at a local level how they might use their occasional days, and so far as possible agree a degree of common provision.

The template calendar (appendix A) sets out the core school holiday dates and community and voluntary controlled schools cannot vary these. (These dates are shown in blue in the calendar). Such schools will remain responsible for determining their INSET dates and if the proposal to create an additional five occasional days is adopted, these five plus the existing one occasional day need to be added to the template calendar before a calendar with 190 schools days is can be arrived at.

Foundation, voluntary aided and academy schools are encouraged to follow the school holiday dates in the template model (appendix A)

In both models INSET days are provided for illustrative purposes only and as is current practice it will be the responsibility of individual schools to set their INSET days.

Comparison of Term Lengths

The length of the terms in the exemplars in Appendix B and C are as follows, though it should be noted that to all intents and purposes under Appendix C Autumn term becomes two separate terms divided by a two week break and the summer holiday is reduced by a week from 6 weeks to 5 weeks.

	Traditional Model Calendar 2017/18 (appendix B)	Extended October Half Term Model 2017/18 (appendix C)
Autumn Term	33	37
	36	31
Spring Term	27	27
	29	29
Summer Term	28	29
	37	37
Total	190	190

Traditional Model Calendar 2017/18 (appendix B)

The traditional model calendar for 2017/18 has a fairly even distribution of the term lengths. The dates in this calendar are also in line with all neighbouring authority calendars shared with us so far, with very similar start and end dates for the terms, the same half term holidays and also the same Easter break which immediate follows the Easter bank holidays. The timing of the half term holiday in February gives an even distribution of school days for each half term.

In this model at the beginning of the school year three occasional days and one INSET day have been used to achieve a start of term for pupils of 5th September. At the end of the school year, two occasional days and one INSET day has been used to achieve a last day of term for pupils as 24th July.

Extended October Half Term Model 2017/18 (Appendix C)

The term lengths in this model are similar to the previous model with a slightly shorter Autumn term due to the two week long half term break. As a result schools start the school year sooner and finish the school year later than the previous model.

Alternatively schools could use the occasional days in other ways, with this flexibility in part helping them to set a calendar more in line with foundation, voluntary aided and academy schools in their area that may have deviated from the Hertfordshire calendar.

Consultation

Proposals will be consulted on with Head teachers and Chair of Governors. The consultation will commence on 23rd October for 4 weeks and close on 25th November. The findings of the consultation will be considered by the Term Dates Working Group at the December meeting prior to a final decision on the term dates to be published for community and voluntary controlled schools for the 2017/18 academic year. These dates will then be published on Hertfordshire's website and also communicated to schools.

To take part in the consultation visit: www.hertsdirect.org/termdates1718

Appendices

Appendix A - Proposed Term Dates 2017/18 – Template

This calendar shows term dates with INSET, and occasional days not added in. There are a total of 201 school days in this calendar. Once INSET and occasional days are added this will give a calendar of 190 school days as is currently required.

Appendix B - Proposed Term Dates 2017/18 – Traditional Model

This calendar shows occasional days added at the beginning and end of the academic year. INSET days have been added in for illustrative purposes. This gives 190 school days.

Appendix C - Proposed Term Dates 2017/18 – Extended October Half Term

This calendar shows five occasional days added to follow the October half term creating a two week break. INSET days have been added in for illustrative purposes. This gives 190 school days.

Hertfordshire School Term and Holiday Dates 2017/2018

Template

July 2017							August 2017							September 2017							October 2017						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3							1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
31																					30	31					

November 2017							December 2017							January 2018							February 2018						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31					26	27	28				

March 2018							April 2018							May 2018							June 2018						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4							1		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	

July 2018							August 2018							September 2018						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1			1	2	3	4	5						1	2
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
30	31																			

Calendar Key

	= Term Time
	= Pupil Holidays
	= Bank and Public Holidays
	= Secondary Transfer Day

Notes

The calendar has 201 school days
 5 days to be used as INSET days
 6 days to be added by schools as occasional days

A traditional model would use 30,31 July, 1 Sept and 26, 27 July as holidays
 Alternatively 5 occasional days could be added to the end of the October half term to make a 2 week holiday

School Term Dates

Autumn Term	=	38 days
Spring Term	=	37 days
Summer Term	=	28 days
		29 days
		29 days
		40 days
		201 days

Hertfordshire School Term and Holiday Dates 2017/2018

Example - Traditional Calendar

July 2017							August 2017							September 2017							October 2017						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3							1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
31																					30	31					

November 2017							December 2017							January 2018							February 2018						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31					26	27	28				

March 2018							April 2018							May 2018							June 2018						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4							1		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	

July 2018							August 2018							September 2018						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1			1	2	3	4	5						1	2
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
30	31																			

Calendar Key

- = Term Time
- = Pupil Holidays
- = Bank and Public Holidays
- = Secondary Transfer Day
- = Occasional Days
- = Inset Days

Notes

The calendar has 201 school days
 5 days to be used as INSET days
 Occasional Days
 1 following the may day bank holiday
 3 at the start of the year
 2 at the end of the year
 This leaves 190 school days

School Term Dates

Autumn Term	=	33 days
Spring Term	=	36 days
Summer Term	=	27 days
		29 days
		28 days
		37 days
		190 days

Hertfordshire School Term and Holiday Dates 2017/2018

Example - Extended October Half Term

July 2017							August 2017							September 2017							October 2017						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3							1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
31																					30	31					

November 2017							December 2017							January 2018							February 2018						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31					26	27	28				

March 2018							April 2018							May 2018							June 2018						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4							1		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	

July 2018							August 2018							September 2018						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1			1	2	3	4	5						1	2
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
30	31																			

Calendar Key

- = Term Time
- = Pupil Holidays
- = Bank and Public Holidays
- = Secondary Transfer Day
- = Occasional Days
- = Inset Days

Notes

The calendar has 201 school days
 5 days to be used as INSET days
 Occasional Days
 5 days used to make the October half term a two week break
 1 used at the end of the year

This leaves 190 school days

School Term Dates

Autumn Term	=	37 days
Spring Term	=	31 days
Summer Term	=	27 days
		29 days
		28 days
		38 days
		190 days