

Hertfordshire School Term Dates 2021/22 and 2022/23 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 and voluntary aided schools and academies 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 schools and academies and we are therefore seeking the views of all schools on these proposals. The dates proposed are based on the recommendations of the Term Dates Working Party, which includes representatives from the head teacher associations and teaching unions. The Working Party makes its recommendations based on a set of principles been agreed with head teacher associations and County Union Secretaries.

In recent years there has been an increasing variation in term dates between schools, both across phases and geographical areas, and it is understandable that some schools wish to adopt different term dates to best suit their community and ethos. In this context it is difficult to set a calendar for Hertfordshire which fully takes into account the differences between schools.

The Working Party aims to set a calendar which can accommodate differing local needs whilst providing a degree of commonality that most schools can follow.

Eastern Region Group (ERG)

The ERG comprises of 12 Local Authorities which meet annually to discuss term dates and seek to agree a common approach across the area. The group includes Bedfordshire Borough, Cambridgeshire, Central Bedfordshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Peterborough, Reading, Suffolk and Windsor and Maidenhead.

All authorities within the ERG agreed to use one, shared, calendar for 2021/22 and 2022/23 respectively. As a result, Hertfordshire's academic calendars will align with all authorities within the ERG. Additionally, the Royal Borough of Greenwich (RBG) has also proposed a calendar in alignment with Hertfordshire, to London LA's and the TDWG has been made aware Brent, Barnet, Enfield, Camden and Haringey intend to align with RBG.

Therefore, less any changes made by our neighbours, Hertfordshire should align with all neighbouring authorities both in 2021/22 and 2022/23.

Proposal for 2021/22 and 2022/23 Term Dates

The TDWG are seeking feedback only on the calendar as a whole, rather than specific views on particular breaks. We therefore propose a standardised calendar which, when confirmed, will be mandatory for community and voluntary controlled schools (dates shown in blue on the calendar).

As in previous years the calendar provides an “envelope” of 196 days which will include 190 school days, 5 INSET days and 1 Occasional day. Community and voluntary controlled schools can determine the INSET and Occasional days to best suit their individual needs. Own admission authority schools can, of course, establish their own dates within statutory requirements.

Consultation

Consultation will run from Monday 25 November 2019 to Friday 20 December 2019. Responses will be considered by the Working Group on 15 January 2019 and dates agreed by the party will be published on the county council’s website, and communicated to all schools, on 31 January 2019.

The TDWG recognise Academy, Foundation and Voluntary Aided schools can set their own term dates. However, Head teachers should make their governing body and/or academy trust aware of the consultation as you are encouraged to provide your views. We hope the majority of schools in Hertfordshire align their school calendars with the county council.

To take part in the consultation, please follow this link:

<https://surveys.hertfordshire.gov.uk/s/termdate/>