

Number: WG27406



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Welsh Government Consultation – summary of response

Harmonising school term dates

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

March 2016

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.

Harmonising school term dates

Audience Local authorities in Wales, including their respective directors of education; governing bodies of voluntary-aided and foundation schools in Wales; diocesan authorities; teaching unions; ESTYN; the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA); Association of Directors of Education in Wales (ADEW); the Children's Commissioner for Wales.

Overview This document summarises the responses received to a consultation on the Welsh Government's proposals for regulations to provide for informing the Welsh Government of the school term dates which have been set for all maintained schools in Wales.

Action required None – for information only.

Further information Enquiries about this document should be directed to:
School Governance and Organisation Branch
Schools Effectiveness Division
School Standards and Workforce Directorate
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ
Tel: 029 2082 6051
Fax: 029 2080 1044
e-mail: SMED2@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Additional copies Both this document and the consultation documents can be accessed from the Welsh Government's website at www.gov.wales/consultations

Related documents Education Act 2002 (English only)
www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/32/contents
Education (Wales) Act 2014
www.senedd.assemblywales.org/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=7186
School term dates: Proposals for reforming how school term dates are set for all maintained schools in Wales (2012)
Consultation document on the Welsh Government's proposals for term date harmonisation
<http://gov.wales/consultations/education/schooltermdates/;jsessionid=7186>

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1. Background

1.1 The Education (Wales) Act 2014 changed arrangements for term date setting in Wales. As a result while local authorities and governing bodies of voluntary aided and foundation schools retain the right to set term dates for their schools, they are also now required to work together, to ensure that those dates are the same or as similar as possible. If, despite best efforts, consensus is not achieved Welsh Ministers have the power to direct local authorities and relevant governing bodies on what their term dates must be, so that term dates are harmonised across Wales.

1.2 Local authorities are required to inform the Welsh Ministers of the term dates set for all maintained schools (including voluntary aided and foundation schools) within their respective areas by the final working day of August. Notifications of their 2017/18 term dates were submitted by all 22 local authorities by 28 August 2015.

1.3 Term dates notified by local authorities fell into two groups. Group A comprised of dates agreed by 16 local authorities - including all the authorities in South Wales; three authorities in mid and West Wales, (Ceredigion, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire); and Anglesey in North Wales. Group B comprised of dates agreed by the remaining 6 local authorities including five authorities in North Wales and Powys. A breakdown of the dates set for Groups A and B is included in the Annex to this document.

1.4 Analysis of notifications indicate some harmonisation in the dates set between the two 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. However other dates differ between the two groups, these being the start and end dates of the school year; spring half term in 2018; and Easter holidays in 2018.

1.5 The second year of the new term date setting arrangements saw an 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 (64%) signed notifications had been returned from the total 168 such schools. All 107 signed notices aligned with their respective local authorities. 72 (67%) of these aligned with authorities in Group A while the remaining 35 (33%) aligned with authorities in Group B.

1.6 Unverified notifications were received from a further 20 voluntary aided and foundation schools, usually in the form of unsigned or incomplete notifications or confirmations received from the local authority. 18 of these agreed with their local authority and opted for dates in Group A whilst the remaining 2 selected dates which did not fall into either Group.

1.7 If we take into account unverified notifications, in total information was received from some 127 of the total 167 VA and foundation schools with 90 (71%) opting for dates in Group A, 35 (28%) opting for dates in Group B and two (1%) opting for alternative dates.

1.8 There was an increase in the level of harmonisation achieved for 2017/18 compared to the exercise for 2016/17. However, despite their best efforts local authorities and voluntary aided and foundation schools were unable to reach consensus on all school term dates.

1.9 Welsh Ministers therefore found it necessary to consider using their powers to direct local authorities and relevant governing bodies what term dates must be so that term dates are harmonised across Wales.

2. The consultation proposals

2.1 Before using their powers of direction Welsh Ministers are under a duty to carry out an appropriate consultation. Subsequently, a three month consultation ran from 9 November 2015 to 1 February 2016 seeking views on the term dates that Welsh Ministers proposed to set for all maintained schools in Wales for 2017/18 and the draft direction. A youth friendly version of the consultation was also issued.

2.2 The dates on which the Welsh Ministers consulted were those notified by the majority of local authorities and VA and foundation schools in Wales, i.e. those in Group A of the Annex attached. This was on the basis that a clear majority of local authorities (sixteen to six) and voluntary aided and foundation schools (72 to 35) or (90 to 35) if we take unverified information into account, selected these dates.

2.3 The proposed dates for 2017/18 on which Welsh Ministers consulted were:

First day of the school year	Monday 4 September 2017
Autumn half term holiday	Monday 30 October 2017 to Friday 3 November 2017
Christmas Holiday	Monday 25 December 2016 to Friday 5 January 2018
Spring half term	Monday 19 February 2018 to Friday 23 February 2018
Easter Holiday	Friday, 30 March 2018 (i.e. final day in school Thursday 29 March) to Friday, 13 April 2018
Summer half term	Monday, 28 May 2018 to Friday, 1 June 2018
Final day in school	Tuesday, 24 July 2018

3. Breakdown of responses received

3.1 A total of 55 consultation responses were received which can be categorised as follows:

Teacher	3	Governor	1	Parent/carers	23	Diocesan authority	2
Local authority	9	School	2	Union	4	Other	11

3.2 The 55 responses included 5 responses to the youth friendly version of the consultation document. Also included were 19 individual responses from members of Llais Rhieni (Parents Voice), the majority of which chose to retain anonymity, and have been identified as “parent/carers” on the category table in 3.1 above

4. Overview of consultation responses

4.1 Unless otherwise stated throughout this report percentages are expressed as a measure of respondents to each question. All such percentages have been rounded up or down to the nearest whole number.

4.2 The consultation document posed the following specific question on the proposed term dates for school year 2017/18 and the proposed draft direction.

Question 1 – Do you agree with our proposals for term dates for the school year 2017/18 set out in the table at point 4.1, and the proposed draft direction in the Annex as discussed in point 4.2?

4.3 All 55 respondents responded to this question. 28 (51%) agreed with the proposals, whilst 16 (29%) disagreed and 11 (20%) neither agreed nor disagreed.

4.4 **The 28 respondents who agreed with the proposed dates included:**

- 7 local authorities, 4 of which noted that the dates were those they submitted as part of the notifications exercise and which all the voluntary aided and foundation schools in their area had agreed.
- 4 responses from youth forums representing the views of a number of children and young people. These responses came via the youth friendly version of the response form.
- 3 schools including one secondary foundation school, one Welsh medium secondary and one English medium primary school.
- 3 school unions including the National Association of Headteachers Cymru (NAHT) who commented that starting the school year on Monday, 4 September 2017 was preferable to the alternative Friday 1 September 2017 and that the dates proposed provided for more even school terms throughout the year.
- Estyn who commented that *“The harmonisation of school term dates would be very helpful for Estyn in planning its inspection programme.”*
- Governors Wales on the basis that the dates represented the majority view.
- 9 other respondents who chose to remain anonymous but which mainly came via parents/carers.

4.5 **The 16 respondents who disagreed with the proposed term dates included:**

- Powys local authority on the basis that the final two days conflict with days 1 and 2 of the Royal Welsh Show 2018. The authority stated that around a dozen schools would be adversely affected by the significant increase in traffic during these two days. One of these schools was used as an operational base for the police, and two as emergency rest centres. They also suggested that identifying these two days as pupil days would result in reduced attendance. The authority had considered the option of allocating both the 23rd and 24th of July as non-pupil (inset) days, but as they occur at the end of the

school year felt that this would not provide the appropriate training and educational benefits to leadership and management of school staff.

- The Royal Welsh Agricultural Society (RWAS) disagreed on the basis of the RWS predicting a “mass exodus” from schools if the proposals went ahead. They suggested shortening the Easter holiday period by one day and taking one day from autumn or spring half term holiday periods.
- Mudiad Ffermwyr Ifanc Cymru/Wales Federation of Young Farmer’s Clubs accepted that harmonised term dates were a good idea as it would benefit voluntary organisations such as Urdd, scouts/guides when planning informal educational events as all schools across Wales will be taking the same holidays. However, they disagreed with the dates because of concerns with the RWS including that children and young people, including some of their own members, would miss out on important educational development opportunities.
- One school governor and one primary school disagreed, the latter suggested changes to holidays which included finishing on Wednesday 28th March 2018 and to have extra holidays at Christmas.
- The Diocese of Wrexham disagreed on the basis that they could not accept a proposal on term dates affecting Catholic voluntary aided schools on which the diocesan authority had not been consulted and without discussion or interest in the Sector’s organisation, education curriculum and emphasis. Although the diocese considered that the half term dates are reasonably balanced and that Easter Holy Week fell within term time they considered that there is no real recognition of the gains and value of the seasons, the festivals and holiday periods in the cycle of learning. They also considered that the autumn term is overly long and there is an insufficient break before Christmas.
- The National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT) was concerned about the length of the autumn term. NASUWT also commented that there was little consultation at local authority level with trade unions maintaining that the Welsh Government should require local authorities to consult with their school workforce unions before setting term dates. They also commented that *“there is no acknowledgement or recognition in the draft Direction of the need to ensure that members of the workforce, who have made arrangements and financial commitments based on the dates published previously by schools and local authorities, will be allowed to take paid leave of absence”*.
- 9 other respondents who chose to remain anonymous disagreed, the majority of which were parents/carers.

Welsh Government Response

4.6 The Welsh Government acknowledges concerns raised by Powys local authority and others regarding the final two days of term clashing with the first two days of the Royal Welsh Show (RWS). However, these dates were chosen by the majority of local authorities and schools who submitted notifications and responded to the consultation exercise. Local authorities are required to work together when setting their term dates. As such there was an opportunity for Powys to raise concerns regarding the RWS with other local authorities

both within and outside their consortia area. The new term date setting arrangements do not appear to set a precedent in relation to the RWS as the term dates set by Powys local authority in 2013 were such that schools were open the first two days of the RWS and on the first day of the RWS in both 2014 and 2015.

4.7 We note in particular concerns regarding traffic management around one particular school and the reference to the potential for accidents occurring when parents are dropping off or picking up their children. Headteachers would be expected to undertake a risk assessment to inform their decision on whether a school should close. As recognised by the local authority schools have the option of designating these two days inset days. Whilst we appreciate the local authority's preference to undertake training at the beginning of the year, this has to be weighed up with other considerations, including health and safety concerns. Once the direction is issued Powys LA will have over two years to plan to ensure that adequate health and safety and traffic easing measures are put in place ready for the RWS in 2018 and/or to ensure that any inset training is suitable and meets the needs of schools.

4.8 Whichever option the local authority and schools choose, children and young people should not miss out on educational development opportunities in attending the RWS as in either case they would be able to attend on the last two days of the show.

4.9 With regard to concerns about the length of the autumn term, when working together to set term dates local authorities would be expected to take into account a number of factors. This would include the length of terms with a view to ensuring that they are as equal as possible. 16 local authorities selected the term dates in group A. It should be noted that selecting term dates proposed by Group B would result in a longer autumn term.

4.10 With regards placing a requirement on local authorities and governing bodies of voluntary aided and foundation schools in respect of with whom they consult prior to agreeing their dates, as stated above local authorities and the governing bodies of VA and foundation schools retain responsibility for setting school term dates. This remains unchanged by the new arrangements in the Education Act 2014. However, they are also now under a duty to consult with each other on what term dates should be, so that term dates are the same or as similar as can be. Beyond that it is a matter for local authorities to determine whether they undertake additional consultation. Nothing within the new arrangements prevents schools from discussing their proposed term dates with their diocesan authority.

4.11 It should be noted however that under the new arrangements introduced by the Education Act 2014, where despite best efforts local authorities and relevant governing bodies are unable to achieve consensus Welsh Ministers have powers to direct what term dates must be. Before issuing a direction Welsh Ministers are under a duty to consult. This provides an opportunity for school staff, Unions and others to put forward their views that did not exist prior to the Act.

4.12 With regards the suggestion that the Welsh Government direct dates which were not put forward by local authorities, as previously stated local authorities and relevant governing bodies retain the right to set terms dates. The dates which were subject to consultation were those put forward by the majority of local authorities and VA and foundation schools. The Welsh Government does not propose to consider dates which were not put forward and which have been subject to consultation.

4.13 With regard allowing members of the workforce to take paid leave of absence where they have made arrangements and financial commitments based on the dates published previously by schools and local authorities. Local authorities and VA and foundation schools should be well aware of the new term date setting arrangements, which have been subject to extensive consultation and forward notice. Those local authorities that decide to publish provisional term dates will be aware that these dates are subject to change and of the need to ensure that parents and staff are fully aware of this. Issues around paid leave are local matters between the local authority/school and the employee.

4.14 The 11 respondents who neither agreed nor disagreed with the proposed term dates included:

- Barry Youth Action – comments included that the current system already works. Some wanted Christmas holidays to start earlier, some felt the 4th September start date was fine whilst others disagreed and felt it should start a day later.
- The Catholic Education Service who commented *“We agree with the reasons for the proposals, particularly because of the problems variations cause for other maintained schools that share services with Catholic schools”* but also added *“where there is universal agreement within the Catholic sector, and where the impact on learners and families is managed or minimalised, we would appreciate the opportunity to remain open, by agreement with all parties, in the week before Easter in order to help learners prepare fittingly for the celebration of Easter”*.
- Isle of Anglesey County Council commented that the dates clash with the RWS, however it should be noted that the proposed dates were in line with those set by Anglesey County Council and notified to the Welsh Government.
- Others who indicated neither agreement nor disagreement included one Church in Wales Primary school and 7 parents/carers, 2 of whom said that prices may go up on holidays and potential crowding at tourist destinations.

Welsh Government response

4.15 There has been extensive consultation on the new term date setting arrangements and an overall positive response. Whilst we appreciate concerns that holiday prices could go up, or crowding at tourist destinations might occur as a result of harmonised dates there is no evidence to say if this will be a factor, especially considering that the rest of the UK are likely to have some different term dates to Wales.

4.16 Allowing a minority of schools to set dates which do not accord with all other schools in Wales would go against the principle of harmonisation. However, when working together to achieve harmonisation the expectation is that issues around religious holidays would be one of the considerations schools and local authorities will take into account.

Children and Young people consultation events

4.17 In addition to the consultation document the views of 215 children and young people across Wales were canvassed via 9 consultation sessions. 115 were from 9-11 years old, 75 were 12-16 years old and 16 were 17-18 years old. 9 did not stipulate their age.

4.18 The consultation events posed one question. **Question 1 - “Do you think that these dates are a good idea?”**

4.19 The following was the breakdown of responses to this question:

Yes:	62
No:	105
Don't Know:	44
Blank:	4

4.20 Of the 62 that agreed there were the following comments:

- *“I think having set holidays for all of Wales or even the UK would make childcare easier for a lot of people”. (pupil aged 14, Mid Wales)*
- *“I think that all these dates are a good idea. The only set of dates that concerned me was the Christmas ones, but I have realised it’s just the way the days worked out”. (pupil aged, 12 North Wales)*

4.21 The majority of comments that disagreed were because of feelings that the dates proposed were too close to Christmas. Comments included:

- *“No because you would only have one day before Christmas Eve so you wouldn’t have any time to prepare”. (pupil aged 10, Wrexham)*
- *“Some of the dates are actually very unfair especially Christmas. Christmas is about spending time with family and I feel we don’t have enough time in the run up of Christmas. I think it should be 18th – 2nd. Everything else is fine though”. (Pupil aged 12, North Wales)*

Welsh Government response

4.22 Local authorities and the governing bodies of VA and foundation schools retain responsibility for setting term dates but are also now under a new duty to work with each other to ensure those dates are the same or as similar as possible. The Christmas holiday was agreed as 25 December 2017 to 5 January 2018 by all 22 local authorities and all 107 VA/F schools who sent in signed term dates notifications.

Q2. Equality Impact Assessment

We would welcome your views on the potential impact of all of our proposals on:

- a) disability**
- b) race**
- c) gender and gender reassignment**
- d) age**
- e) religion and belief and non-belief**
- f) sexual orientation**
- g) human rights**

4.23 21 (38%) of the 55 respondents chose to respond to this question:

- 7 respondents stated that they did not believe that the term dates impacted on any aspect of equality.
- 4 respondents commented that the dates take account of Holy Week and so support the needs of Roman Catholic schools. Despite this, one response asked that clusters of Catholic schools remain open during Holy Week as a matter of course and that directing these schools to harmonise can impact on *“the spiritual and religious formation of learners”*. Another response from the Diocese of Wrexham said that the consultation *“prevented the diocese from providing guidance to governing bodies of Catholic VA schools in the setting of their term dates”*
- 4 respondents commented that the dates may impact on pupils from different religions, e.g. the need to take account of other religious festivals such as Eid.
- The other responses said that the proposals in relation to the Royal Welsh Show were an infringement upon human rights in that people should have the *“freedom to attend one of the cornerstone events within Welsh culture”*. Another response said that the WG have a duty to carry out an Equality Impact assessment. Another said it would affect days out as everyone would be off at the same time.
- NAHT Cymru commented that maintaining an even spread of term splits, enabling every pupil to maintain good attendance, maximising learning and teaching time should be the aim for all pupils, irrespective of any of the listed equality areas.

Welsh Government Response

4.24 There was a thorough Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) performed for the whole of the Education Wales Act 2014 which contains both an EIA and a Children’s Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) on proposals to legislate on school term dates harmonisation. This takes into account the values of faith based schools:

<http://wales.gov.uk/legislation/programme/assemblybills/education-act/?lang=en>

4.25 Governing bodies of Voluntary Aided and Foundation schools (which include Roman Catholic schools) retain the right to set school term dates but they now have a duty to work together to ensure those dates are the same or as similar as possible. Where local authorities and VA and foundation schools have failed to reach agreement on term dates, Welsh Ministers have the power under the Education Act 2002 to direct what the term dates must be to ensure harmonisation of term dates across Wales.

4.26 The current proposals do not impact the Easter period and all Roman Catholic (RC) schools who submitted signed notifications agreed with the dates of their relevant local authority, this included 15 RC schools from North Wales who set dates that would see schools being closed during Holy Week.

4.27 It is for local authorities and VA/F schools to consider the impact on religious festivals such as Eid.

Q3. We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them.

4.28 18 (33%) of the 55 respondents chose to respond to this question and offered a number of suggestions.

- Three responses including Torfaen County Borough Council and Newport City Council believed that the Welsh Government should have responsibility for setting term dates both stating that the work involved in getting to this stage has been significant. Isle of Anglesey local authority shared this view but also suggested putting in place an agreement on term dates for the next three years.
- A further two responses each were in relation to the Royal Welsh Show being impacted; the problems with INSET days compromising school term dates; and off-setting term dates with those set in England.
- The remaining responses included the consideration of working parents in setting term dates being disproportionate compared to the impact on schools. One suggested that term lengths should be fixed ignoring the dates of Easter, one response concerned issues for the disabled with planning for Christmas.
- Three responses asked for an earlier announcement to the term dates than was the case last year for term dates for 2016/17 where the announcement was made in June 2015.

Welsh Government Response

4.29 The right of local authorities and VA/F schools to set term dates is set out in the Education Act 2002. To override this right to initially set term dates could be viewed as an abuse of power by Welsh Ministers. As such the legislation has been drafted on the basis that local authorities and voluntary aided and foundation schools retain the right to set term dates for their schools but are also under a duty to coordinate with each other to ensure that those dates are the same or as similar as possible. Welsh Ministers will only intervene and direct what term dates must be if harmonisation is not achieved. The expectation is that in determining what dates to set Welsh Ministers would take into account dates previously notified to them. Before issuing a direction Welsh Ministers are under a duty to consult.

4.30 It is not feasible to set term dates for a number of years in advance as it would not be possible to anticipate significant events and circumstances that might occur. However, Welsh Ministers could alter the dates at a later stage to take account of these circumstances when they come to light. The Welsh Government considers that work on setting term dates should become easier each year as the process will remain the same and consortia/local authorities and VA/F schools should by now have established networks to discuss, agree and produce notifications for their schools which should make the process of determining term dates easier each year. The policy on term dates will be subject to review in 2017/18.

4.31 In England local authorities are responsible for setting term dates in community and voluntary controlled schools and the governing bodies of voluntary aided and foundation schools are responsible for setting term dates for those schools. Consequently, there is no

harmonisation in England and it is possible that a wide variety of dates will be set. It is therefore unlikely that we would have a set "pattern" of term dates to consider from England when exploring term dates for Wales.

4.32 The power to provide for who may determine INSET days currently rests with the Secretary of State in Whitehall. Therefore it was not possible to explore allowing the Welsh Ministers to intervene in the setting of INSET days when changes to term-date setting were made in the Education (Wales) Act 2014. Currently the organisation and timing of INSET days is for local authorities, governing bodies and headteachers to determine.

4.33 Schools may benefit from harmonisation of term dates for the reasons that has been raised by the Catholic Education Service, in that variations in term dates can cause problems for maintained schools that share services with Catholic schools. It should also be noted that the majority of school workforce unions who responded to this consultation agreed with the proposals. This includes the National Union of Teachers, the National Association of Headteachers and the Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) Cymru, who believe that term dates should be of fixed length. Whilst these proposed term dates are not of exact fixed length, we would expect that creating terms of relatively equal length would be a consideration for local authorities and schools when setting their term dates.

4.34 The responsibility for considering the needs of disabled people around the Christmas period is for local authorities to consider. Welsh Ministers would be reluctant to use their powers to alter the Christmas Holiday 2017 when this period has already been harmonised across Wales.

Children and Young people consultation events - Question 2 - “Do you think we’ve missed anything out”

4.35 The following was the breakdown of responses to this question:

Yes:	41
No:	66
Don't Know:	9
Blank:	99

4.36 There were some further comments around the Christmas period, comments on different religious holidays being considered, potential ‘hikes’ in holidays prices, and consideration for people with disabilities, matters that have been responded to above. Comments included:

- *“Christians celebrate Christmas Eve too so they wouldn’t have any time to plan”. (Pupil aged 10, Wrexham)*
- *“There should be days off allowed for other religious purposes”. (Pupil aged 10, South Wales)*
- *“This just makes it easier for companies to hike prices up”. (aged 16)*
- *I think people with certain disabilities may not handle the amount of time off. (Aged 11)*

E-mails received in response to the consultation

4.37 Alongside consultation responses the Welsh Government received 18 emails relating to the consultation. The majority of these related to matters that were outside the scope of the consultation. This included suggestions to alter the number and length of terms or that the Welsh Government should set the term dates and then consult on these dates.

4.38 Other suggestions included deliberately setting dates that were different to England to take advantage of cheaper holidays and suggestions on the timing and frequency of INSET days.

4.39 Five emails disagreed with the dates on the basis that they clashed with the first two days of the Royal Welsh Show. However, the authors of three other e-mails agreed with the proposed dates.

4.40 Where consultation timescales allowed those who submitted emails were offered an opportunity to submit a formal consultation response to ensure their views on the proposed dates could be taken into account along with other formal responses before the consultation period ended. One correspondent who submitted an email also chose to respond to the consultation and that response is reflected in the consultation summary.

Welsh Government Response

4.41 We note the suggestions of moving away from the 3 term model or altering the lengths of current holidays (e.g. shortening the summer term and having longer half terms). However, implementing such proposals would have a major impact on teachers' pay and conditions, which is a non devolved matter. Changing the pattern of the school year would also have a significant impact on the lives of school children, their families, businesses and society in general. This matter would require extensive consultation and is not a proposal that is being considered at this point in time.

5. Way forward

5.1 The Welsh Government would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who took the time to respond to this consultation. The Minister will consider the summary of responses report and its findings when making a decision on the permanent direction for school term dates for 2017/18, which is expected to be issued during Spring 2016.

6. List of respondents

Ysgol Eirias
Amanda Disley
Ysgol Uwchradd Bodedern
Torfaen County Borough Council
Penarth Youth Action
Caerphilly County Borough Council
Barry Youth Action
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Vale Youth Forum
National Association of Headteachers (NAHT) Cymru
Royal Welsh Agricultural Society
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Sully Primary School
Newport City Council
Gwion Dafydd
Estyn
Flintshire County Council
Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) Cymru
Catholic Education Service
Isle of Anglesey County Council
Rhyader Church in Wales Primary School
Ceredigion County Council
Mudiad Ffermwyr Ifanc Cymru/Wales Federation of Young Farmer's Clubs
Governors Wales
Powys County Council
Diocese of Wrexham
National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT)
National Union of Teachers (NUT) Cymru
Felinfoel Family Centre x 3 (Llais Rhieni)
Burry Port Family Centre (Llais Rhieni)

In addition to the above respondents there were 23 respondents who wished to remain anonymous.

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