

**Number:** WG30071



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Welsh Government  
Consultation – summary of responses

## Harmonising school term dates

Term dates proposals for all maintained schools  
in Wales for school year 2018/19

Date of issue: June 2017

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

## Harmonising school term dates

<b>Audience</b>	Local authorities in Wales; governing bodies of voluntary-aided and foundation schools in Wales; diocesan authorities; teaching unions; Estyn; the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA); the Association of Directors of Education in Wales (ADEW); the Children's Commissioner for Wales.
<b>Overview</b>	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.
<b>Action required</b>	None – for information only.
<b>Further information</b>	Enquiries about this document should be directed to: Professional Learning, Leadership and Governors Team Schools Effectiveness Division The Education Directorate Welsh Government Cathays Park Cardiff CF10 3NQ Tel: 0300 025 5485 e-mail: SMED2@wales.gsi.gov.uk
<b>Additional copies</b>	This document can be accessed from the Welsh Government's website at <a href="http://gov.wales/consultations">gov.wales/consultations</a>
<b>Related documents</b>	Education (Wales) Act 2014 <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2014/5/section/5">www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2014/5/section/5</a>  Education Act 2002 <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/32/contents">www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/32/contents</a>  The Education (Notification of School Term Dates) (Wales) Regulations 2014 <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2014/1249/contents/made">www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2014/1249/contents/made</a>  The Education (Consultation on School Term Dates) (Wales) Regulations 2014 <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2014/1462/contents/made">www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2014/1462/contents/made</a>

# Contents

<b>1. Background</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2. The consultation proposals</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3. Summary of responses received</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4. Overview of consultation responses</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>5. Way forward</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>6. List of respondents</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Annex A: Notifications of term dates agreed</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Annex B: Groupings of local authorities</b>	<b>17</b>

# 1. Background

1.1 The Education (Wales) Act 2014 (“the 2014 Act”) changed term date setting arrangements in Wales by inserting Wales-only provision into the Education Act 2002 (“the 2002 Act”). As a result, while local authorities and the governing bodies of voluntary aided (VA) and foundation schools (“relevant governing bodies”) retain the right to set term dates for their schools, they are also now under a duty to work together to ensure 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 direct local authorities and relevant governing bodies on what their term dates must be, so that term dates are harmonised across Wales.

1.2 Provisions in the 2002 Act require local authorities to notify Welsh Ministers of the term dates set for all maintained schools in their areas (including voluntary aided and foundation schools) by the final working day in August (in this case, 31 August 2016 for 2018/19 term dates).

1.3 Term dates notified by local authorities fell into two groups (please see page 16). Group A comprised of dates agreed by 17 local authorities from three of the four Welsh consortia areas whilst Group B comprised dates set by all authorities in the Education Achievement Service (EAS) consortium these being Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen. A breakdown of the dates set for Groups A and B is included in Annex B on page 17 of this document.

1.4 Analysis of notifications indicate near complete harmonisation in the dates set between the two groups. The only difference being the Spring Half Term in 2019. Group A has chosen this as 25 February to 1 March, whilst Group B chose 18 February to 22 February.

1.5 All 22 local authorities in Wales submitted notifications of their 2018/19 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”). As of 1 November 2016 signed notifications were received on behalf of 86 of the 165 (52%) VA and foundation schools in Wales. 83 signed notices aligned with their respective local authorities whilst 3 Roman Catholic schools chose a different Easter holiday which involved them remaining in school during Holy Week. Of the 83 notifications 72 (87%) of these aligned with their authorities in Group A while the other 11 (13%) aligned with their authorities in Group B.

1.6 In terms of unverified term dates, there were a further 15 voluntary aided or foundation schools where term dates were provided. Usually these were unsigned, incomplete or confirmed via the local authority. 10 of these aligned with their local authorities in Group A whilst 5 aligned with their authorities in Group B. If we added these to the 86 signed notifications we would have a total of 101 VA or foundation schools who have provided information on their term dates for 2018/19 i.e. 61%.

1.7 There has been an increase in the level of harmonisation achieved for 2018/19 compared to the exercises for 2016/17 and 2017/18. However, despite their best efforts local authorities and voluntary aided and foundation schools were unable to reach consensus on all school term dates.

1.8 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. Consultation proposals

2.1 Before using their powers of direction Welsh Ministers are under a duty to carry out an appropriate consultation. Subsequently, a consultation ran for over three months from 12 December 2016 to 20 March 2017 seeking views on the term dates that Welsh Ministers proposed to apply for the school year 2018/19 to all maintained schools in Wales and the related draft direction. In addition a child friendly version was 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 (seventeen to five) and voluntary aided and foundation schools (72 to 11) selected these dates.

2.3 The proposed dates for 2018/19 on which Welsh Ministers consulted were:

First day of school year	Monday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2018
Autumn half term holiday	Monday, 29 <sup>th</sup> October 2018 to Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2018
Christmas holiday	Monday, 24 <sup>th</sup> December 2018 to Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2019
Spring half term	Monday, 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2019 to Friday, 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2019
Easter holiday	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2019 to Friday, 26 <sup>th</sup> April 2019
Summer half term	Monday, 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2019 to Friday, 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2019
Final day in school	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2019

### 3. Summary of responses received

3.1 A total of 123 responses were received to the consultation which can be categorised as follows. Those who did not specify on the online response form were marked as “Other” as were those who sent anonymous response forms with no personal details:

<b>Teacher</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Governor</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Parent/carers</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Diocesan authority</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Local authority</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>Union</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>10</b>

3.2 The level of responses to the consultation is a large increase on the 2017/18 exercise which yielded 55 responses, therefore a 223% increase. The reason for this significant increase is due to a large amount of responses by children and young people to the consultation. For previous exercises a youth friendly version of the consultation response form was included in the online consultation, however very few responses were submitted using this form in the two previous exercises and so this method to engage with children and young people was discontinued and other avenues of engagement were considered by Welsh Government officials.

3.3 For the 2018/19 exercise the Cabinet Secretary for Education agreed that officials should engage with their contacts in schools governance and pupil participation in local authorities and ask them to forward to this version to schools and other organisations who may have an interest. Any responses generated via this method would be counted as consultation responses just as those that came via the online consultation form.

3.4 A total of 83 responses (67%) were submitted using a child friendly version of the consultation, however it should be noted that these were mostly from a number of pupils in the same school. One Welsh medium secondary school (Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed) contributed 59 (71%) of these responses. The 83 responses came from 11 schools covering Primary and Secondary and Welsh and English medium education. The youth friendly version contained two questions compared to five on the online version.

3.5 50 of the 86 (56%) notifications were received from Roman Catholic schools who indicated agreement with the dates and therefore would accept schools being closed during Holy Week 2019, whilst only 3 notifications favoured schools remaining open during this period.

## 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 questions on the proposed term dates for school year 2018/19 and the proposed draft direction.

**Question 1 – Do you agree with our proposals for term dates for the school year 2018/19 set out in the table on page 8? *The equivalent question on the youth friendly version of the form was - Do you think that these dates are a good idea?***

4.3 All 123 respondents responded to this question. 56 (46%) agreed, 47 (38%) disagreed whilst 20 (16%) neither agreed nor disagreed.

4.4 **The 56 respondents who agreed with the proposed dates included:**

- All 16 local authorities, most had already submitted these dates as their preferred dates however, Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Newport and Monmouthshire from the EAS consortium who had originally sent in slightly different dates agreed on the basis that these proposed dates differed only slightly from those that they notified to the Welsh Government.
- 33 responses from the child friendly version of the response form which came mostly from individual pupils at both primary and secondary schools. Some had commented that it helps having the same dates as some people might have family members in different schools with different dates and liked being in school close to Christmas and that they could celebrate St David's day at home with family.
- 3 teachers, 3 school workforce unions and Governors Wales also agreed with the proposed dates however, NASUWT stated that they were *“disappointed to note that there appears to have been very little consultation at local authority level with the trade unions representing the education workforce when deciding on school term/holiday dates.*

### Welsh Government response

4.5 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, 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. 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 with their workforce. Nothing within the new arrangements prevents them from doing so.

#### 4.6 **The 47 respondents who disagreed with the proposed term dates included:**

- 34 responses on the children's version of the response form, most of them were school learners who believed that the Christmas holiday period starts too close to Christmas day. Others disagreed because of matters relating to the Royal Welsh Show and some wanted to be in school to celebrate St David's Day.
- The NUT also disagreed because they felt that the Spring Half term should be brought forward so that St David's Day falls within the school term and it would offer important cultural opportunities to learners and opportunities to structure innovative lessons if they were in school for this day. One response on behalf of a school also disagreed for the same reason.
- The Royal Welsh Agricultural Society sent in three responses on behalf of their Board of Directors and their Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire Advisory Committees. They did not wish for school term dates to collide with the Royal Welsh Show which they believe is a significant educational, cultural and social event that is attended by many children and young people. However, alternative dates were suggested that would allow teachers and children to attend all days of the Show. *To note that the current proposals would involve schools being open on the first day of the Show.* Wales Young Farmer's Clubs also disagreed with the dates for reasons concerning the Royal Welsh Show and the educational and Welsh language opportunities benefits the show can bring amongst other benefits.
- Amongst others to disagree were 4 teachers, 1 parent/carer, 1 anonymous response and 1 individual who marked "other". Amongst the concerns raised in these responses were regarding term length stating the problems with teachers planning on unequal terms and children being tired if term lengths are too long. Also concerns on finishing terms on odd days, e.g. on a Monday could cause school, absences. Another stated that Easter was too late.

### **Welsh Government Response**

4.8 The Christmas holiday was agreed as 24 December 2018 to 4 January 2019 by all 22 local authorities and all 86 VA/F schools who sent in signed term dates notifications. Whilst we understand the comments and concerns about schools breaking up too close to Christmas day, this was agreed by all those that submitted notifications.

4.9 The Welsh Government notes that some learners and teachers would prefer to be in school to celebrate and plan lessons around the importance of St David's day or maybe take special school trips. However, the Welsh Government appreciates that many may prefer to be away from school or work especially those who believe that St David's day

should be a national holiday in Wales. Whilst we considered the terms dates notified by local authorities in Group B which involved the Spring half term holiday being taken a week earlier meaning schools being open for St David's day, 4 of the five authorities in this group who responded to this consultation indicated that they would be happy to adopt the term dates proposed by the majority of local authorities which means schools being closed on St David's day.

4.10 The Welsh Government fully appreciates the cultural, economic and educational importance of the Royal Welsh Show (RWS) and this is always taken into consideration when proposing harmonised term dates. In coming to the decision on these proposals Welsh Ministers noted that Powys local authority (the authority area where the Show is held) notified to Welsh Ministers the same term dates as those that are being proposed, i.e. dates that involve schools being open on the first day of the Show. All other notifications (save one from a Roman Catholic school which wanted to finish term two days into the Show) also chose to finish on this day. These dates do not 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.

4.11 Children and young people would not miss out on educational and cultural opportunities offered by the RWS as they would be able to attend every day of the Show apart from the Monday.

4.12 When setting term dates local authorities would be expected to take into account a number of factors. This includes the length of terms with a view to ensuring that they are as equal as possible. Whilst we appreciate concerns with schools finishing on a Monday, this date (22 July 2019) was agreed by all local authorities and 85 of the 86 VA and foundation schools who sent in notifications with the one notification stating a finish date of 23 July.

#### **4.13 The 20 respondents who neither agreed nor disagreed with the proposed term dates included:**

- 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 and for 14-19 year old learners on collaborative courses"* 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"*.
- Estyn who stated that they do not have a particular view on the consultation proposals but understands how the harmonisation of school term dates can benefit learners, their families and guardians and other stakeholders engaged with education in schools in Wales.

- One member who marked other because of he believed that the Easter Holidays are too late in the Spring and that people will not have any money to come out on both the Easter and May Day.
- All other responses were from children and young people who indicated were generally fine with the dates but some were unsure about being in school so close to Christmas.

## **Welsh Government response**

4.14 Local authorities and VA and foundation schools retain the right to set term dates. 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.

4.15 We appreciate the comment regarding the potential costs to families on both Easter and the May Day bank holiday and the feeling that Easter was too late in the Spring.. However these were the sets of dates chosen by all 22 local authorities and 83 of the 86 notifications from voluntary aided and foundation schools. The other 3 notifications proposed a later holiday date.

## **Question 2 – Equality impact assessment**

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

- i) disability**
- ii) race**
- iii) gender and gender reassignment**
- iv) age**
- v) religion, belief and non-belief**
- vi) sexual orientation**
- vii) human rights.**

4.16 20 (50%) of the 40 responders to the online consultation response form answered this question:

- 6 respondents stated that they did not believe that the term dates impacted on any aspect of equality.
- Five responses mentioned human rights in relation to the right for a child to attend the Royal Welsh Show, whilst the Wales YFC agreed with the principle of harmonised term dates they argued “...*the proposal will aid equality on the whole although we would argue that it is your human right and to some extent your religion to be able to attend the Royal Welsh Show as it is deep in the tradition of Wales and an event that is dear to so many families in Wales*”. Another mentioned that term dates focussed around the Easter holidays can create terms of unequal length which

whilst not impacting directly on the human rights of children, can impact negatively on children's education.

- Five respondents commented that the dates impact on Holy Week and some Roman Catholic schools may wish to spend Holy Week in school. Newport City Council stated that *“Neither the proposed dates nor the originally submitted dates allow for schools to be open during Holy Week. Seven of our eight voluntary aided schools submitted the same preferred dates as the Council for the Easter closure”*.
- The other four responses were about schools being open on St David's Day. One response believed it was fair for everyone to be in school up to Holy Week but to have the time off to celebrate with family. Another response stated that the duty to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment lied with the Welsh Government. A remaining response was from a local authority who stated that they undertake a screening assessment to assist the Council in discharging its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010.

### **Welsh Government Response**

4.17 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. From the notifications exercise it was noted that 47 (94%) of the 50 RC schools who submitted notifications agreed to align with their local authority which meant being off school during Holy Week.

4.18 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 will be updated after this harmonisation of term dates exercise and will be available online.

### **Question 3 – We would like to know your views on the effects that harmonising school term dates for 2018/19 would have on the Welsh language, specifically on:**

- i) opportunities for people to use Welsh**
- ii) treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.**

### **What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?**

4.19 18 (45%) of the 40 respondents to the online response form chose to respond to this question.

- 9 responses stated that they saw no impact.
- Three responses stated that not being in school for St David's day may negatively impact the Welsh language, one teacher commenting that this day is used to promote Welsh language and culture. Five responses stated that given that the

language is intertwined with the Royal Welsh Show, schools being open for one day may negatively impact use of the Welsh language.

- A response from the National Association of Head teachers stated that harmonisation of term dates could benefit the Welsh language stating *“Harmonising school term dates results in all schools remaining open or closed at the same times during the year.....As a result, joint working between schools can be facilitated and there may be particular potential benefits for partnerships between Welsh-medium and neighbouring English-medium schools. Therefore, a potential positive impact could result in improved opportunities for people/pupils to use Welsh within the school day in all schools”*.

**Question 4 – Please also explain how you believe harmonising school term dates for 2018/19 could be formulated or changed so as to have:**

- i) positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language**
- ii) no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.**

- There were 14 from 40 (35%) of responses to this question. Six stated they saw no impact whilst five referred to their answer to question 3. Three further responses each referred to the Royal Welsh Show and St David’s day as they had done in question 3.

### **Welsh Government Response**

4.20 As stated above, there will be opportunity for children and teachers to attend the RWS on all but the first Monday of the Show also we understand the importance of St David’s day to many people, however, as stated above many people may prefer to celebrate this occasion at home and with their families.

**Question 5 – 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.**

**The second question on the children and youth friendly response form was a similar catch-all question but incorporated equality matters this was – *We want to make sure we think about how setting term dates could affect people with disabilities, people from different faiths, or other equality issues. Do you think there’s anything we’ve missed out?***

4.21 31 (25%) of 123 respondents chose to answer this question and responses covered a wide range of topics:

- Five responses all from local authorities (4 from the EAS consortium) stated that they felt that the work to coordinate term dates in their authorities was significant and that

they supported the setting of term dates to be the responsibility of the Welsh Government.

- Four responses were suggestions for different term dates whilst another three responses suggested a change to the term structures, for example, reducing the length of summer holidays but increasing the Christmas and half term holidays.
- Three responses stated their support for harmonised term dates with one stating that this is beneficial for large families.
- A further three responses reiterated concerns with the first day of the Royal Welsh Show clashing with the final day of the school term.
- Three responses from the children and youth friendly versions suggested alternative holidays for celebrations such as St Patrick's day and Bonfire night.
- Two responses suggested that St David's day should be a National holiday.
- Two responses commented on Easter being too late. There was one response that mentioned that we should avoid finishing on odd days and a further response to comment on school breaking up too close for Christmas.
- The NAHT responded with a number of concerns which included shortened weeks, i.e. weeks with less than three days could negatively impact on attendance and families may be inclined to use this time to take their children out of school believing that these days are of little academic use and to access cheaper holidays. The need for adequate periods of study in the build up to examinations and the concept of re-introducing additional INSET days to take account of the additional training implications for teachers which include changes in curriculum, assessment and the ALN Bill etc.
- The NASUWT is concerned with the use of twilight sessions instead of additional training days and also suggested raising INSET days to 7, but to reduce "pupil days" by two to 188.
- On response from a teacher stated that teachers are increasingly in favour of building Maundy Thursday into the half term period and asked for this to be considered when building future timetables.

## **Welsh Government Response**

4.22 It continues to be the right of local authorities and VAF 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.

4.23 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.

4.24 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.

4.25 Whilst we appreciate the concerns with shortened weeks and the need for school learners to have adequate lead in time to examinations, the policy in Wales is to seek harmonisation of term dates where this has not been achieved and not to set term dates for all maintained schools in Wales. Local authorities and the governing bodies of relevant schools would be expected to factor in matters concerning shortened weeks and would be expected to consider setting terms of relatively equal length and to ensure adequate lead in time to examinations. Matters such as the building on Maundy Thursday into the Spring half term holiday would be for local authorities to decide upon in consultation with their school workforce.

4.26 INSET days are important in supporting effective teaching, learning and assessment. Teachers in Wales are granted 5 inset days by virtue of the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document and these will continue to be made available. There are a number of factors that need to be considered carefully when considering additional days. Training needs across the whole of the school sector are variable, both over time and in the nature of the training that needs to be provided and the different educational settings involved. In addition, any increase in the allocation of training days would directly result in a reduction in the learning days offered to pupils and so has to be balanced with the loss of learning opportunities. Taking into account these factors, the current statutory 5 days for training are considered an appropriate and a substantive resource for all schools in Wales and there are currently no plans to introduce any additional days.

4.27 We have maintained a consistent position on holidays in term time. Regulations in Wales provide head teachers with discretionary powers to authorise leave for a family holiday during term time where parents seek permission. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, no more than 10 days leave should be granted for this purpose. Fixed penalty notices can be issued to address regular non-attendance at school and local authorities should have robust evidence before issuing a penalty.

## **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 direction for school term dates for 2018/19, which is expected to be issued during Summer 2017.



## 6. List of respondents

59 pupils from Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Iscoed  
8 pupils from Llanharan Primary School  
8 pupils from Ysgol Gymraeg Ifor Hael  
Anglesey County Council  
ASCL Cymru  
Blaenau Gwent CBC  
Bridgend CBC  
Caerphilly CBC  
Carmarthenshire County Council  
Ceredigion County Council  
Conwy County Borough Council  
Denbighshire County Council  
Greenhill School  
Gwynedd Council  
Heolgerrig Community School, (School Council)  
Libanus Primary School  
Llanmartin Primary School, (School Council)  
Llwyncrwn Primary School  
Matthew Hamar (parent)  
Merthyr Tydfil CBC  
Monmouthshire County Council  
NAHT Cymru  
NASUWT Cymru  
Neath Port Talbot CBC  
Newport City Council  
NUT Cymru  
Porth Junior School, (School Council)  
Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC  
Swansea City and County Council  
The Catholic Education Service  
The Royal Welsh Agricultural Society Ltd (Ceredigion)  
The Royal Welsh Agricultural Society Ltd (Directors)  
The Royal Welsh Agricultural Society Ltd (Pembrokeshire)  
Trealaw Primary  
Vale of Glamorgan Council  
Wales YFC  
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Gartholwg  
Ysgol Henry Richard Tregaron, (School Council)  
Ysgol Penycae

In addition to the above respondents there were 11 respondents who wished to remain anonymous.

## Annex A: Notifications of term dates agreed

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

## Annex B: Groupings of local authorities

<b>Local authority school term/holiday dates for 2018/19</b>		
<b>School term/holiday dates</b>	<b>Local authority group A</b>	<b>Local authority group B</b>
<i>First day of school year 2017-18</i>	Monday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2018	Monday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2018
<i>Autumn half term holiday (i.e. dates when pupils are <u>not</u> in school)</i>	Monday, 29th October 2018 to Friday 2nd November 2018	Monday, 29th October 2018 to Friday 2nd November 2018
<i>Christmas holiday (i.e. dates when pupils are <u>not</u> in school)</i>	Monday, 24th December 2018 to Friday 4th January 2019	Monday, 24th December 2018 to Friday 4th January 2019
<i>Spring half term holiday (i.e. dates when pupils are <u>not</u> in school)</i>	Monday, 25th February 2019 to Friday, 1st March 2019	Monday, 18th February 2019 to Friday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2019
<i>Easter holiday (i.e. dates when pupils are <u>not</u> in school)</i>	Monday 15th April 2019 to Friday, 26th April 2019	Monday 15th April 2019 to Friday, 26th April 2019
<i>Summer half term (i.e. dates when pupils are <u>not</u> in school)</i>	Monday, 27th May 2019 to Friday, 31st May 2019	Monday, 27th May 2019 to Friday, 31st May 2019
<i>Final day of school year 2017-18</i>	Monday 22nd July 2019	Monday 22nd July 2019