

Comments made to the consultation on school term and holiday dates for 2016-2017

The comments made for this model were:

Because I live and teach on the Norfolk/Cambridgeshire border. Some of our children (and staff) live in Cambridgeshire. Their siblings attend Cambridgeshire schools. As do staffs own children. It will be a logistical nightmare if we have different dates.

The terms are roughly equal in length. The summer holidays are still long enough for children to have the necessary break form school.

These dates are a recognised pattern that parents are familiar with. The terms are roughly equal apart from the Spring term due to where Eater falls. This is better for the staff and pupils alike.

Staying in line with Eastern Region is far better. Being near a county border, having localised different term dates makes things very difficult for those who have children in more than one county. We wish to have a standard model, but have the flexibility to move our INSET days around, which gives staff the opportunity to have extended half term breaks etc.

The terms are relatively well spread out with regards to the number of weeks each half term.

Easier for parents and schools if dates are standard.

Gives school staff that work 52 weeks of the year large periods of time to carry out large building projects etc

The dates are similar to the pattern that exists at the moment. I feel they are evenly spread out and as a working parent they are manageable for taking annual leave or looking for childcare options.

The comments made against this model were:

School year needs to be a regular one, staff training dates should be at the discretion of the school as the current model doesn't support flexible innovation

Because having flexibility will allow parents and employees to avoid the inflated prices set by holiday companies.

As a school we would like the option to close on one of the show days. A lot of our pupils are involved or go. This day is perfect for reviewing the year and planning the curriculum for the next year at a time when people are not too tired.

I would prefer a slightly shorter summer holiday with those days added to the October break.

We retain a longer summer holiday with Norfolk model C, get an extra couple of days in October which breaks up a long term and keep 2 full weeks at Easter and Christmas. It is good to end the year on a Friday and not to work too long into July when children are tired and year 6 just want to leave!

Prefer the additional 2 days added to October half term - the autumn term is always a very long term and the weather is still good at this time.

Changing the term dates would allow families to enjoy family holidays at a more affordable price. Currently having the same term dates as the rest of the country means that prices of holidays at times that parents are allowed to book rocket to more than double the price during term time.

Selfishly, it is just the Easter Holidays I have an issue with. For us they are better when split either side of Easter weekend, because we are a clergy family, so it would mean there is no family time as the children would

They make the term lengths more manageable for teachers and pupils.

They maintain the summer holiday at a suitable length to give teachers time to wind down, relax and then prepare again, which shorter holidays don't and which then leads to teacher burnout and stress.

As we are near to county borders it makes sense for us to be the same as other schools.

Easier for parents who have children at different schools.

Too long holidays especially in the summer months.

Kids forget what they have learnt.

Parents have to work so kids with special needs present a problem
Families with children at different schools will struggle to organise supervision and holidays if not a combined approach. Surely leading to higher absenteeism if not a unified approach. Students work hard in school terms and need a proper rest to set them up for the next year, as do the teachers who often work very long hours

It remains the pattern common to previous years, regularises Easter, and allows parents, children and teachers the best option.

be back at school when my husband is on holiday the week after Easter, he is unable to take holiday leading up to Easter and we respect the regulations around NOT taking our children out of school for holidays during term time.

Shorter summer holiday would be better with equal length terms

I believe the long summer break should be shortened and an extra week added to the May and October half terms.

I would like to see terms dates changed so that some of the longer holiday is moved to the colder months rather than the summer, say the traditionally four hottest weeks and the four coldest weeks. The reason for this is twofold, firstly it would avoid school closures for snow days and secondly it would have environmental and financial benefits as it would result in a reduction in the use of gas and electricity in the colder and darker period of the year whilst still allowing families time to have a holiday whilst it is warm.

5-6 weeks holiday is too long for children, they become bored very quickly. It is also extremely difficult for a parent in full-time work to get this amount of time off on leave to look after but again provide for your family. The amount of holiday only works if you are employed as a teacher and have children. The holiday camps are far too expensive for most families to afford especially if you have two children and so are days out.

Summer holidays are far too short. Around 10 weeks would be far more appropriate and allow time for travelling and exploring other parts of the world.

I'm a frustrated parent who is unable to be flexible with our holidays. Not everyone wants to holiday in August. I would prefer two weeks in October or May/early June.

Why is this only being decided by Head Teachers and being influenced by people in Tourism? It should be the school and the parents who decide what is best overall as

I think it is good for children to have a long summer holiday. It really gives them time to relax and it's good to have the time off school when it is warm enough for us to do local activities like go to the seaside, rather than adding extra holidays to winter holidays.

I work in a different school to my children and at the moment we have similar holidays, if they were to vary it would be a nightmare for me. I also think the children need a long break over the summer to recover, I know I do!

Because the current holidays work and we have two children at different schools and it would be ridiculous if they had holidays at different times - you have to consider the users of the school, whose parents have to work, not whether having standard holidays makes an annual holiday expensive or not. Although I believe that the addition of 2 extra days into half term in the autumn is beneficial otherwise my children and I benefit hugely from an extended break. It allows us to pursue our own passions and development outside the curriculum and to reconnect as a family. I think that sometimes the May and October half terms could be 2 weeks each and then the summer holiday be reduced to 4 weeks only.

Or each county have different holiday periods to
Think that the Week one should turn into 2 weeks

many are not the privileged few with high paid jobs such as head teachers and councillors but ordinary people on low wages whose children are missing out on days out and holidays due to cost and the school's own trips are even more expensive so are not an option.

1 Need for standardisation

2 The longer October break has had a significant positive impact on holidays being taken by parents ensuring greater attendance at school. I would suggest this is maintained.

This also provides a staff a slightly longer break which has also had a positive impact on staff attendance due to illness.

The Terms don't look that different from how the current terms are set out.

If the idea of the change in holidays is to allow parents to be able to take children away during the holidays instead of term time they need to be different. Also the terms should be more evenly spread in the long terms the children get tiered, tiered children do not learn well.

Our headteacher shared with us three different proposed models for Norfolk term dates. Of the three, all staff unanimously preferred the model that had two extra days holiday during the October and February half terms and a slightly shorter Summer break. As most members of teaching staff go into school for at least a day or two during half terms, we felt that this would give us the opportunity to do that whilst actually having a full week of 'holiday' (a better work-life balance and better for staff wellbeing).

It would be better for neighbouring authorities to have differing dates to try and even out the cost of holidays and hopefully prevent so many children being taken out of school to go on holiday

Clusters should be able to set their own holiday dates. This would result in pupils' holidays being spread out and potentially cheaper holidays for parents and those working in education.

The year needs more 'balance' for teachers, and especially for pupils. The long summer

Familiarity with standard patterns is helpful. My Son is going to High School in September, my daughters are at primary school and my husband and I are both teachers at different schools. We're part of 4 different schools in 4 different clusters. If school holidays are not standardised across Norfolk we may never get family holidays. We can't take time off during term time and due to government rules we can't take kids out of school so effectively giving individual schools/clusters freedom to set their own holidays could effectively ruin our family holidays. Or alternatively my husband and/or I would have to change career to ensure we can have time off with the children.

Looks like they are full weeks and not part week, which is harder to plan for.

I see no reason the stray from the tried and tested term times. Also it would be extremely unhelpful to parents if different schools had different term times. How would working parents cope with this? My wife and I only just manage to cover holiday times as it is, so parents with more than one child would struggle if things changed.

Longer half term

Uniformity is very important schools have many issues to face and this is way down the list.

holiday is unnecessary and causes severe regression. The year would be much better (in terms of children's progression and teachers' exhaustion levels) if terms/holidays were more evenly spaced. Each half term should be six weeks long with the holidays spread out more evenly between them.

Why still have such a long break over the summer holidays, when holiday companies charge families the earth to go on holiday together. Why not have a longer holiday in June or September to enable parents to arrange holidays at a cheaper cost and reduce parents taking children out of school during term when they will miss valuable lesson time.

You need to change the way you organise the terms to make life easier for parents!