

**REPORT OF THE  
EXECUTIVE LEAD MEMBER FOR  
Children's Services**

**SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES FOR 2011/ 2012**

1. The Executive Lead Member has approved the school term and holiday dates for the school year 2011/2012, adopting a model proposed by the Local Government Association (LGA) National Standing Committee on the School Year.
2. It is the responsibility of a local authority to schedule a school year which provides the statutory 190 pupil days and 195 teacher days in voluntary controlled and community school.
3. In late December 2009 the Government approved an extra bank holiday to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. Legislation has been passed to allow teachers to benefit from the extra bank holiday; the school year therefore needs to only set 194 days for the 2011/2012 period.
4. The LGA Committee has agreed on the implementation of a "Standard School Year" with six sessions of roughly equal length regardless of the position of Easter in the calendar. With this as a basis, the Committee proposed a model pattern of term and holiday dates for 2011/2012, taking the additional bank holiday into account.
5. Local authorities have always determined the dates of school terms and holidays independently and, despite attempts to secure national agreement, not all authorities have agreed to abide by the recommendations of the LGA. However this model has the support of the Hampshire teachers' professional associations, represented by the Conditions of Service Working Party (CoSWoP), who have traditionally worked closely with officers of the local authority to secure an agreed approach to setting dates for the county's schools. Consultation with Hampshire schools on the model has received positive feedback. It is also understood that neighbouring authorities are adopting the LGA scheme, which is of benefit to families who are affected.
6. Two key features of the model are that the Autumn term starts on Monday 5 September which starts the year with a whole week. It also provides a two week, three weekend, Christmas holiday.
7. Establishing balanced term lengths with regular breaks supports an Aim of the corporate strategy, to maximising wellbeing, by helping schools and families to plan learning more effectively. Another Aim, Hampshire, safer and more secure for all, is supported by achieving agreement on dates across the county so that schools and their communities can work effectively together in school and out of school hours.

8. Achieving a proper structure to the school year also contributes to all aspects of The Children Act 2004. Properly structured periods of learning and rest help children to remain healthy, enjoy their school time and achieve more. Children are safer in school and good attendance supports educational achievement laying the foundation for a positive contribution to society and economic well-being.
  
9. The report arises from consideration of the report by the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services on 7 June 2010 which is on Hantsweb at [http://www3.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings/advsearchmeetings/meetingsitemsummary.htm?pref=Y&tab=1&item\\_ID=1691&cancel=n](http://www3.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings/advsearchmeetings/meetingsitemsummary.htm?pref=Y&tab=1&item_ID=1691&cancel=n)

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