

Results of the Consultation on the Proposed School Calendar for 2019/20

1. Background

1.1 The Local Authority is responsible for setting the school calendar for Community and Voluntary Aided Schools. The consultation took place between 25 January and 2 March 2018 and took place with:

- Parents & Carers (Via the Parent Engagement Network)
- Headteachers
- Governors
- Neighbouring Authorities
- Other stakeholders

The proposed arrangements and consultation arrangements were also posted on the Council's website.

2. Number of responses

2.1 Responses were received from the following stakeholders:

5 Parents in favour of the proposed calendar

6 Parents opposed of the proposed calendar

3 Schools in favour of the proposed calendar

0 Schools against the proposed calendar

0 responses from other stakeholders

2.2 Parents In favour:

- *As a busy parent with both me and my husband working full time, the fixed Easter holidays are fantastic. They make childcare far easier to plan as booking time off becomes easier and is less of a struggle. Please can you pass my feedback on this and hopefully the fixed Easter will continue!*
- *A bit of feedback from holiday consultation, I personally would rather have traditional next year 1 reason because its later in the year and the weather might be better! 2, We have fiends in neighbouring cities who seem to have traditional and we like to meet up, 3 – I go on holidays designated to traditional – then again you can get other holidays a bit cheaper outside of traditional!*
- *I would support the Fixed Easter model you are proposing.*

- As a parent I would be happy to continue with the fixed Easter holiday rather than the traditional one.
- *I would support the fixed Easter model for the following reasons:*

The majority of participants in the previous consultation went for this model suggesting that teaching staff believe it is the better option for learning.

The dates are more suitable for my work annual leave year.

2.3 Parents against

- *I'm writing to you expressing my concerns/opinions re: the newsletter released via the parents assembly. It's been shared on Facebook by parents at my little girls school and as you can imagine lots of comments made. My personal concern and I know I'm not on my own is that I live in Sheffield my daughter attends a Sheffield school my son will in time, but currently I work at a Rotherham School. This year my Feb half term week doesn't match and 1 week of Easter is out. One of the biggest reasons I became a teacher was to be able to share school holidays with my children, this is less possible this year. Next year neither of the Easter holiday weeks match, which is already worrying about extra childcare as my childminder who is also attached to a Sheffield School won't be working when I return to School meaning I'll have to find 2 weeks of random childcare... an additional cost and not even sure at all how I will manage that. The thought of additional weeks around the holiday start and end dates that don't match with Rotherham will definitely put us as a family under pressure. Many of my colleagues are in a similar situation, and I'm sure conversely teachers who work in Sheffield but live elsewhere in South Yorkshire. How much my voice will be heard on this matter I'm not sure but I felt it very necessary to provide it on this occasion I really think the bigger picture here needs to be considered.*
- *Can you make sure that Sheffield holidays are consistent with Rotherham's please. this year has caused a lot of problems because February half term and Easter half term are different for Sheffield and Rotherham. One of my children goes to school in Sheffield, the other is in Rotherham and I work in Rotherham. It has caused a lot of problems in terms of when I take my leave and what to do when one is on holiday and the other one is not. I know many others in the same position. It is so much better when the holidays are the same. I do not mind when the holidays are as long as they are the same please! it will be particularly difficult in 2019 as my son in Rotherham will be going on a skiing trip in February half term, if my other son is not off then it will cause a lot of problems!*
- *I am emailing with regard to the current school holidays and next academic year's holidays. I would like to know why Sheffield and Rotherham Local Authorities are not discussing their school holidays when so many children*

cross these borders to attend school.

My personal situation is that my children attend a Rotherham School, but I teach in a Sheffield School therefore I have no choice but to remove my children from school to go on holiday as I cannot take any other time off. Also, I have to pay for additional childcare for my children during the school holidays, when this should be a time for us to spend as a family.

My sister is also in the position the her older children attend a Rotherham Secondary School but her youngest son attends a Sheffield Primary. How would you suggest she manages this as a working parent? Take the whole month off work for Easter next year? Choose which of her children miss school in order to take a family holiday? Is it acceptable that she will receive a fine for this?

Apparently 1200 parents have been sent a questionnaire. Where were these distributed? No one I have spoken to has received one. Were they distributed in the Handsworth, Woodhouse areas where many children in the same family attend a Sheffield Primary School, but a Rotherham Secondary School (Aston Academy?)

- *Could you please take my query further with regards to how I stand legally if I do decide to take one of my children out of school next Easter, April 2019. Sheffield have the first two weeks in April off, with Rotherham having the second two weeks off. I am looking to book a holiday for the Easter break, but will inevitably have to take one child out of school? Will I still get fined for this? I have posted a discussion on The Sheffield Star facebook page regarding this whole matter, and advised if anyone wishes to complain that I do have an email address in which they too can voice their opinions through. I hope you get enough people that voice their opinions for the Sheffield City Council to think about changing their stance on Fixing Easter for the 2019/2020 school holidays.*

- *This email is regarding fixing of holiday dates. I have 2 children going to school in Sheffield and 1 at secondary school in Aston in Rotherham. The holiday dates for this year do not fall together for the the next academic year. I believe this has already been fixed and cannot be changed however for the future we would appreciate if you would look into the matter of fixing the holidays so both authorities get same holiday dates. I know there are many other people having same issues as us with not being able to plan anything around the holidays without taking days of school. We do not wish our kids to take time off school but this may happen with not only us but other people too if we are forced to have different holidays in the future. It's been the same for so many years and we have never had any issues with the holidays until this year so why change it now? I hope you will be able to*

take into consideration our views.

- *I know it's out of the consultation period but I have only just found out the term dates. I need to voice my opinion about not having the school term in 2019 in Easter. I have a special needs son in a Sheffield school and another in Rotherham. How do you think I can explain they are not able to go away for Easter together when they have been away for these holidays for the last 12 years. My special needs child has enough to contend with without being penalised by the authorities always thought these holidays were about celebrating the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ another holiday we can't celebrate.*

2.4 Schools in favour

- Responses were received from one Secondary School and two Primary Schools. All three agreed with the proposed calendar and will be adopting it.

2.5 Schools against

- There were no school responses against the proposed calendar.

2.6 Other stakeholders.

- There were no responses received from other stakeholders that were consulted.