

Summary of Consultation

1. Background

A City wide consultation exercise was conducted between 9 January and 17 February 2017 with:

- Headteachers
- Governors
- Parents
- Other stakeholders
- The general public.

Consultation took place with Headteachers and Governors, the Parental Engagement Network (3600 parents) and was also placed on the City Council's website.

2. Number of responses

There were **7 responses** received.

3. Who responded?

In support of the proposed calendar.

Establishment	Response
Meersbrook Primary School	The Governing Body agrees with the recommended school calendar and will be adopting it.
Broomhill Infant School	The Governing Body agrees with the recommended school calendar and will be adopting it.
Bents Green Special School	The Headteacher at Bents Green and the Senior Leadership Team support the idea of a fixed Easter break.
Sheffield College	The Sheffield College will follow term dates adopted by Schools in the Authority (and hopefully there will not be any deviation from this from individual schools.) Therefore we are happy to accept the decision of the majority.

Against the proposed calendar

Establishment	Response
St Thomas More Catholic Primary	<p>As we are required to work during holy week the “fixed Easter” may not always work for our school.</p> <p>We are concerned regarding a very interrupted half term following the fixed Easter i.e. 3 weeks where there are Bank Holidays.</p> <p>We are concerned with the late finish for the summer break, likely to impact on leave of absence requests for 22nd, 23rd and 24th July.</p>
Notre Dame Catholic High School	<p>The position of the governors at Notre Dame has been that we will try to set our terms dates as far as possible to match those of the local authority so as to minimise split holidays for families who are split across schools.</p> <p>We do so with the caveat that we will follow the Bishop’s expectation that the school is in session through Holy Week before Easter and as close to Christmas as possible.</p> <p>The proposed holiday pattern for 2018-19 causes no problem with this principle, so it is likely that governors would support this model should it be adopted. We know too that the diocese has raised no objections and our family of schools are also likely to be able to adopt this pattern.</p> <p>That being said, there are some reservations with the model for 2018-19 and some further potential issues if it continues into the future and we would like these considered in the consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This pattern of holidays means that Good Friday and Easter Monday will not fall in the school holidays in 2018-19 (& will often be the case in the future) meaning an additional 2 bank holidays in term time, which in turn will often push the start of the summer holiday back to a point part way

	<p>through a week. By limiting the number of 'full weeks' in the summer break, there is likely to be increased pressure from parents requesting term time leave to go on holiday. This is a downside of the 'fixed Easter' holiday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the future, there will be some years when one of the two weeks in the 'fixed Easter' break clash with Holy Week. In those years, Catholic schools will still need to set their holidays on a different pattern to the Local Authority dates and, if Holy Week falls in the second of the two weeks, then the Catholic schools' Easter break would have no overlap at all with other schools. • We recognise that the only way to resolve both of these issues would be for the whole authority to follow the current pattern of the Catholic schools, with a two week break starting on the Easter weekend and we understand that this is unlikely to happen. We recognise too that this model has its downsides, particularly when Easter is late and the holiday runs right up to SATs, GCSEs and A Levels. • A further alternative would be to consider either a single week holiday for the fixed Easter break. It would be easier to negotiate this with Catholic schools so that it did not fall on Holy Week and it would compensate against the later start/split week issue at the summer holiday. • A similar alternative would be to have a week + 1 to 3 days at Easter, depending on the day of the week that school started in September, to ensure a Friday
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	finish in the summer, removing the split week issue.
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Response from Sheffield Girls High

As an Independent School our holidays are 3 weeks longer per year. We will be using the traditional pattern as a basis then extending by one week at Christmas, Easter and Summer.