

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 2017-18

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The major school holiday arrangements for Argyll and Bute for session 2017/2018 require to be set by the Council.
- 1.2 Members are asked to agree a framework for the main school holiday periods in Argyll and Bute that will enable Education Services to align the in-service days for teachers and the holiday dates for pupils. Aligning the in-service days for teachers will improve school collaboration, delivery of continuing professional development courses and the sharing of good practice. In addition these arrangements provide enhanced opportunities for staff to come together to work on key improvement activities arising from the new Education Act and National Improvement Framework (NIF)
- 1.3 Prior to submitting this proposal full consultation took place with Parent Councils for school holiday arrangements for 2017/2018. Head Teachers were informed of this consultation. The consultation documents and summary outcomes at this stage of the consultation is contained in Appendix 1.
- 1.4 Proposals for the main school holiday periods in Argyll and Bute is attached as Appendix 2. They take appropriate account of the Parent Council consultation and arrangements outlined by other authorities.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Community Services Committee is asked to:
 - a) Note the approach being taken to consult on the proposed arrangements for school holiday in session 2017/2018;
 - b) Note that further consultation with appropriate Unions on the proposal for school holiday arrangements in Session 2017/2018 will be taken forward, and
 - c) Agree that the final pattern of school holidays and in-service days are presented for consideration at the September Community Services Committee meeting.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 2017-18

3.0 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 The major school holiday arrangements for Argyll and Bute for session 2017/2018 require to be set by the Council.
- 3.2 Members are asked to agree a framework for the main school holiday periods in Argyll and Bute that will enable Education Services to align the in-service days for teachers and the holiday dates for pupils. Aligning the in-service days for teachers will improve school collaboration, delivery of continuing professional development courses and the sharing of good practice. In addition these arrangements provide enhanced opportunities for staff to come together to work on key improvement activities arising from the new Education Act and National Improvement Framework (NIF)
- 3.3 Prior to submitting this proposal full consultation took place with Parent Councils for school holiday arrangements for 2017/2018. Head Teachers were informed of this consultation. The consultation documents and summary outcomes at this stage of the consultation is contained in Appendix 1.
- 3.4 Proposals for the main school holiday periods in Argyll and Bute is attached as Appendix 2. They take appropriate account of the Parent Council consultation and arrangements outlined by other authorities.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Community Services Committee is asked to:
- a) Note the approach being taken to consult on the proposed arrangements for school holiday in session 2017/2018;
 - b) Note that further consultation with appropriate Unions on the proposal for school holiday arrangements in Session 2017/2018 will be taken forward, and
 - c) Agree that the final pattern of school holidays and in-service days are

presented for consideration at the September Community Services Committee meeting.

5.0 DETAIL

- 5.1 There is no requirement under Schedule 1 of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, 2000 to consult on and give notice in respect of school holidays. However, prior to submitting this proposal full consultation took place with Parent Councils for school holiday arrangements for 2017/2018 with all Parent Council Chairs receiving a copy of the proposal or circulation and discussion with their members. Head Teachers were informed of this consultation by e-mail with a copy of the proposal attached. Fifty-nine of the eighty-three Parent Council's responded to the consultation. The school holiday proposal in Appendix 2 reflects the majority outcome of this consultation and includes the views of late respondents.
- 5.2 Copies of the school holiday proposals have been circulated to the relevant unions and teachers' professional associations for consultation and comment.
- 5.3 Following this, a final consultation taking account of the comments of all consulted parties will take place with Parent Councils to set the school holiday arrangements for 2017/18. Head Teachers will be informed of this final consultation by e-mail with a copy of the proposal attached.
- 5.4 The completed school holiday arrangements will then be intimated to all members and thereafter to all relevant parties.

6.0 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The Parent Council consultation has resulted in a proposed school holiday pattern which minimises variation between local areas within Argyll and Bute yet broadly takes account of historical school holiday arrangements.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

- | | | |
|-----|-------------|-------|
| 7.1 | Policy: | None. |
| 7.2 | Financial: | None. |
| 7.3 | Legal : | None. |
| 7.4 | HR: | None. |
| 7.5 | Equalities: | None. |

7.6 Risk: None.

7.7 Customer Service: School holiday arrangements for 2017/2018 will be made available to the public via the Council Website.

Executive Director of Community Services

Policy Lead for Education and Lifelong Learning: Councillor Rory Colville
02 June 2016

For further information contact:

Louise Connor, Education Manager: Performance and Improvement
Louise.Connor@argyll-bute.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1: Consultation letter and appendices
APPENDIX 2: Summary consultation outcomes
APPENDIX 3: Proposed School Holiday plan 2017/2018

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Argyll and Bute Council
Comhairle Earra Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

Community Services
Executive Director: Cleland Sneddon



Education

Argyll House, Alexandra Parade,
Dunoon, Argyll, PA23 8AJ
Tel: 01369 708474 Fax: 01369 708584
e-mail: annmarie.knowles@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Please ask for: Ann Marie Knowles
Our Ref:
Your Ref:
Date: 23 February 2016

Chair of the Parent Council

Dear Parent Council Chair

SCHOOL HOLIDAY CONSULTATION 2017-18

I am writing to seek your views on school holiday and teacher in-service arrangements for Session 2017-18 in line with the Scottish Schools Parental Involvement Act (2006). The purpose of this consultation is to enable Education Services to align the in-service days for teachers and the holiday dates for pupils. Aligning the in-service days for teachers will improve school collaboration, delivery of continuing professional development courses and the sharing of good practice.

There are two proposals for your consideration and I would be grateful if you would discuss proposal A and B with members of the Parent Council and return your views indicating your preferred option on the enclosed consultation form by the **31st March 2016**, if possible. I have enclosed a freepost envelope for this purpose.

Once we have undertaken this consultation the outcome will go to the LNCT (Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers) and Community Services Committee for consideration and approval following which we will write out and advise you of the school holiday dates for 2017-18.

Thank you for your assistance with this consultation.

Yours sincerely



Ann Marie Knowles

Head of Service: Education

cc Louise Connor, Education Manager
Cleland Sneddon, Executive Director

SCHOOL HOLIDAY CONSULTATION – PROPOSAL A

All Argyll and Bute schools would have the same school holiday dates and the same in-service days for teachers.

TERM	BREAK	DATES OF ATTENDANCE	
First			14 th and 15 th August 2017 Teachers' In-Service
		Open	16 th August 2017 Pupils Return
	October	Close	6 th October 2017
		Open	23 rd October 2017
			24 th November 2017 Teachers' In-service Day
	Christmas	Close	22 nd December 2017
Second		Open	8 th January 2018
		Close	12 th February 2018
			13 th February 2018 Teachers' In-service Day
		Open	19 th February 2018
	Spring*	Close	29 th March 2018
		Open	16 th April 2018
Third	May	Close	4 th May 2018
			Monday 8 th May 2018 Teachers' In-service Day
		Open	9 th May 2018
		Close	29 th June 2018

* Easter Sunday – 1st April 2018

The proposed dates for teacher in-service for all schools for 2017-18 are therefore:

Monday 14th August 2017
 Tuesday 15th August 2017
 Friday 24th November 2017
 Tuesday 13th February 2018
 Tuesday 8th May 2018

SCHOOL HOLIDAY CONSULTATION – PROPOSAL B

All Argyll and Bute schools would have the same in-service days for teachers and the flexibility to set 2 local holiday dates.

TERM	BREAK	DATES OF ATTENDANCE	
First			14 th and 15 th August 2017 Teachers' In-Service
		Open	16 th August 2017 Pupils Return
	October	Close	6 th October 2017
		Open	23 rd October 2017
			24 th November 2017 Teachers' In-service Day
	Christmas	Close	22 nd December 2017
Second		Open	8 th January 2018
		Close	9 th February 2018
			13 th February 2018 Teachers' In-service Day
		Open	14 th February 2018
	Spring*	Close	29 th March 2018
		Open	16 th April 2018
Third	May	Close	4 th May 2018
			Monday 8 th May 2018 Teachers' In-service Day
		Open	9 th May 2018
		Close	29 th June 2018

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Community Services
Executive Director: Cleland Sneddon

Education
Head of Service: Ann Marie Knowles



SCHOOL HOLIDAY CONSULTATION 2017-18

RETURN FORM

School			
Parent Council Chair			
Please circle your preferred option and add comment(s) if you wish.	Preferred Option		
	A	B	We disagree with both options
Comment(s)			
Date	Signature		

Appendix 2

CONSULTATION RESULTS – 59 Parent Council's Responded

Please circle your preferred option and add comment(s) if you wish.	Preferred Option		
	A	B	We disagree with both options
Outcome	24	20	15
Percentage	41%	34%	25%
Comments	<p>There were requests to change the Inset day on the 13th February 2018 as families would prefer a full week off rather than 4 days.</p> <p>Some parents would prefer one week in October.</p> <p>Some parents wished the 2 weeks in October to take account dates of the MOD.</p>		

Appendix 3

**Argyll and Bute Council
Community Services: Education
School Holiday Arrangements
2017/2018**

TERM	BREAK	DATES OF ATTENDANCE	
First			14 th and 15 th August 2017 Teachers' In-Service
		Open	16 th August 2017 Pupils Return
	October	Close	6 th October 2017
		Open	23 rd October 2017
			24 th November 2017 Teachers' In-service Day
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