

School Holiday Dates for 2017/2018

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Community Services Committee with an update to the further consultation that took place with Parent Councils, Head Teachers and teaching staff with regard to School Holiday dates for 2017-2018.
- 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.
- 1.3 Prior to submitting this update full consultation took place with Parent Councils for school holiday arrangements for 2017/2018. The consultation documents and summary outcomes were presented to Community Services Committee on the 2nd June 2016.
- 1.4 It is recommended that the Community Services Committee:
 - a. Note the update to the proposed arrangement for school holiday in session 2017/2018 following the first round of consultation with Parent Councils (Appendix 1).
 - b. Note the outcome of the second round of consultation that has taken place via a web based survey with Parent Councils, Head Teachers and teaching staff (Appendix 2).
 - c. Note that consultation with appropriate Unions on the proposal for school holiday arrangements in Session 2017/2018 has been undertaken at both JSC and LNCT meetings where the updated proposal was noted. The outcome of the further consultation referred to the JSC on the 26th October 2016 was that the proposed school holiday dates in Appendix 3 was approved. The outcome of the further consultation has been referred to the LNCT on the 30th November 2016 for decision.
 - d. Note that advantage to the service of being able to deliver focused continuing professional development to teaching and support staff with the increase in common in-service dates.
 - e. Approve the proposed school holiday dates for Session 2017/2018 and 2018/19 as outlined in Appendix 3 and Appendix 4.

School Holiday Dates for 2017/2018

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The major school holiday arrangements for Argyll and Bute for session 2017/2018 require to be set by the Council.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 Increasing the number of common in-service dates for teachers will enable the service to 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).
- 2.4 Common in-service dates will also enhance the delivery of focused continuing professional development to improve the knowledge and skills of staff in a number of areas eg assessment and moderation and leadership.
- 2.5 Common in-service dates will also allow staff to meet and share good practice that will improve outcomes for children and young people.
- 2.6 Common in-service dates will enable the service to provide a comprehensive calendar of CPD activities and deliver them as cost effectively as possible eg reducing teacher cover costs.
- 2.7 Prior to submitting this update full consultation took place with Parent Councils for school holiday arrangements for 2017/2018. The consultation documents and summary outcomes at this stage of the consultation were presented to Community Services Committee on the 2nd June 2016.
- 2.8 It was recommended that further consultation take place with Parent Councils, Head Teachers and teaching staff and that the outcome of this further consultation is presented at Community Services Committee on the 8th December 2016. The updated proposal for the main school holiday periods in Argyll and Bute used in the second round of consultation is attached as Appendix 1. Cognisance was taken of the responses to the initial consultation with Parent Councils within the updated proposal.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that the Community Services Committee:

It is recommended that the Community Services Committee:

- a. Note the update to the proposed arrangement for school holiday in session 2017/2018 following the first round of consultation with Parent Councils (Appendix 1).
- b. Note the outcome of the second round of consultation that has taken place via a web based survey with Parent Councils, Head Teachers and teaching staff (Appendix 2).
- c. Note that consultation with appropriate Unions on the proposal for school holiday arrangements in Session 2017/2018 has been undertaken at both JSC and LNCT meetings where the updated proposal was noted. The outcome of the further consultation referred to the JSC on the 26th October 2016 was that the proposed school holiday dates in Appendix 3 was approved. The outcome of the further consultation has been referred to the LNCT on the 30th November 2016 for decision.
- d. Note that advantage to the service of being able to deliver focused continuing professional development to teaching and support staff with the increase in common in-service dates.
- e. Approve the proposed school holiday dates for Session 2017/2018 and 2018/19 as outlined in Appendix 3 and Appendix 4.

4.0 DETAIL

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 However, prior to submitting this update paper two consultations took place; the first with Parent Councils and the second with Parent Councils, Head Teachers and Teaching staff to ensure that all stakeholders gave consideration to the updated proposal.
- 4.3 The updated proposal took cognisance of as many of the respondent views as possible and ensured that:
 - a two week break in October was included;
 - a one week break in February was included;
 - the number of incomplete school weeks for pupils were minimised and
 - there was an increase in the number of common in-service dates supporting the delivery of focused CPD were aligned.

4.4 The outcome of the second round of consultation is as follows:

Parent Councils voted in favour of the updated school holiday dates for 2017-2018:

- there were 37 responses from Parent Councils, including two late responses
- 62.2% of Parent Councils that responded agreed to the updated proposal
- 37.8% of Parent Councils that responded rejected the updated proposal

School Staff voted against the updated school holiday dates for 2017-2018:

- there were 474 (**60.5%**) responses from Head Teachers, teaching staff and support staff from a total staff of 783.58 fte.
- **45%** of Head Teachers and Teaching staff that responded **agreed** to the updated proposal for the following reasons:
 - staff would prefer to retain two weeks at October;
 - staff welcomed the one week break in February and
 - aligning the in-service days allows for increased collaboration between schools
- **55%** of Head Teachers and Teaching staff that responded **rejected** the updated proposal for the following reasons:
 - The majority of staff would prefer to retain their two week Winter break;
 - staff who work on Islands were concerned about the shortened winter break and the implications for travel;
 - two in-service days in January were too soon;
 - two weeks in October was too long and
 - HALCO staff would prefer the holiday dates to align with neighbouring authorities.

5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 Parent Councils voted in favour of the updated school holiday dates for Session 2017/2018 and the proposed dates should therefore be considered for approval.

5.2 Teaching staff rejected the proposed dates and the modified proposal contained in Appendix 3 should be considered for approval to retain the parent wishes and to accommodate the majority of staff who wished to

retain their two week winter break. Head Teachers would agree the pattern of in-service days for their cluster (geographical area).

- 5.3 The school holiday dates for Session 2018/2019 contained in Appendix 4 should be considered for approval to enable the school holiday dates for 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 to be published to stakeholders.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------|--|
| 6.1 | Policy: | None. |
| 6.2 | Financial: | None. |
| 6.3 | Legal : | None. |
| 6.4 | HR: | None. |
| 6.5 | Equalities: | None. |
| 6.6 | Risk: | There is a risk to the reputation of the Council if we cannot provide School holiday arrangements for 2017/2018. |
| 6.7 | Customer Service: | School holiday arrangements for 2017/2018 will be made available to the public via the Council Website. |

Ann Marie Knowles
Acting Executive Director of Community Services

Councillor Rory Colville
Policy Lead for Education and Lifelong Learning
18th October 2016

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APPENDICES

- Appendix 1: Updated School Holiday Dates for 2017/2018**
- Appendix 2: Outcomes of second round of consultation on Proposed School Holiday Dates for 2017/2018**
- Appendix 3: Proposed solution to the School Holiday School Holiday Dates for 2017/2018**
- Appendix 4: Proposed School Holiday Dates for 2018/2019**

Appendix 1 Updated Proposed School Holiday plan 2017/2018

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
	Christmas	Close	22 nd December 2017
Second			
Second			4 th and 5 th January 2017 Teachers' In-Service
		Open	8 th January 2018 Pupils return
		Close	9 th February 2018
		Open	19 th February 2018
	Spring*	Close	29 th March 2018
		Open	16 th April 2018
Third			
Third	May	Close	4 th May 2018
		Open	8 th May 2018
		Close	29 th June 2018

* Good Friday – 30th March 2018

* Easter Sunday – 1st April 2018

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

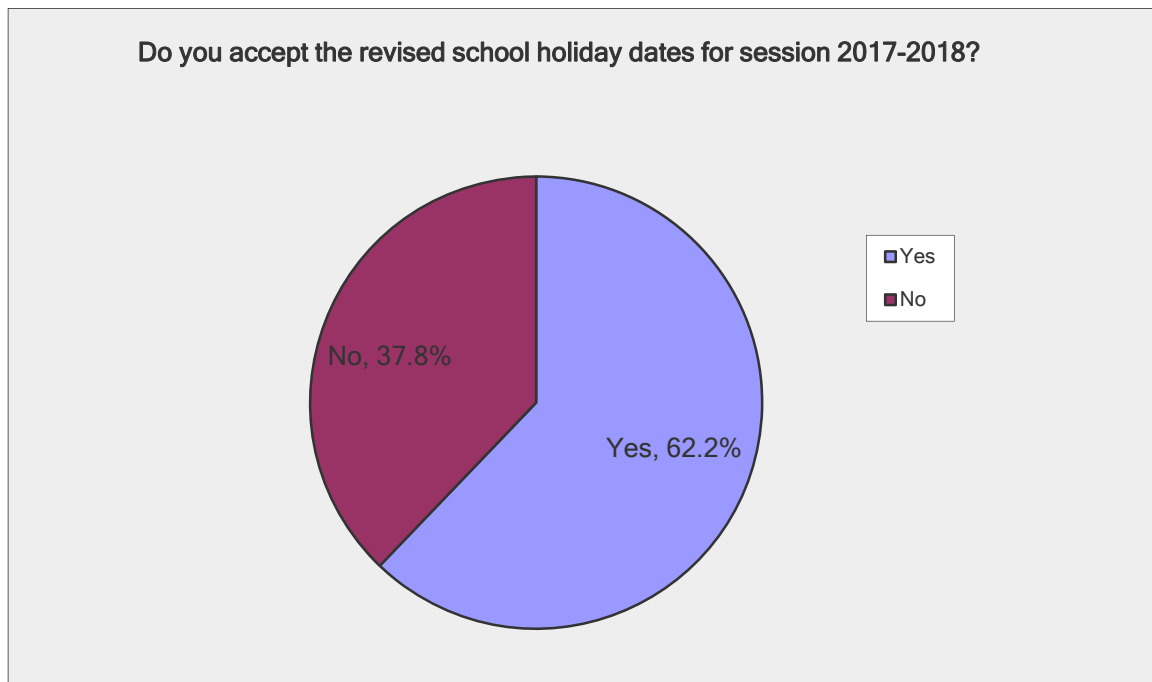
Monday 14th August 2017
 Tuesday 15th August 2017
 Friday 24th November 2017
 Thursday 4th January 2018
 Friday 5th January 2018

APPENDIX 2: Outcome of further consultation on Proposed School Holiday plan 2017/2018

PARENT COUNCIL

**School Holiday Dates Consultation - 2017 - 2018
Further Consultation - Parent Council**

Do you accept the revised school holiday dates for session 2017-2018?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	62.2%	22
No	37.8%	14
Any further comments		20
<i>answered question</i>		37
<i>skipped question</i>		0



Yes - By Area

COWAL	1	5%
OLI	10	45%
HALCO	4	18%
MAKI	5	23%
No school indicated	2	9%
Total	22	100%

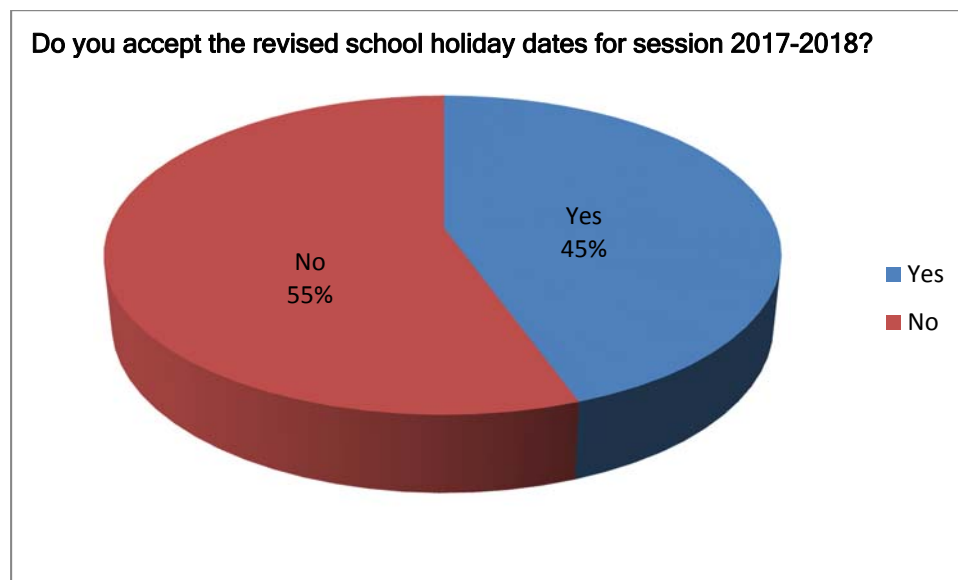
No - By Area

COWAL	3	21%
OLI	1	7%
HALCO	5	36%
MAKI	5	36%
No school indicated	0	0%
Total	14	100%

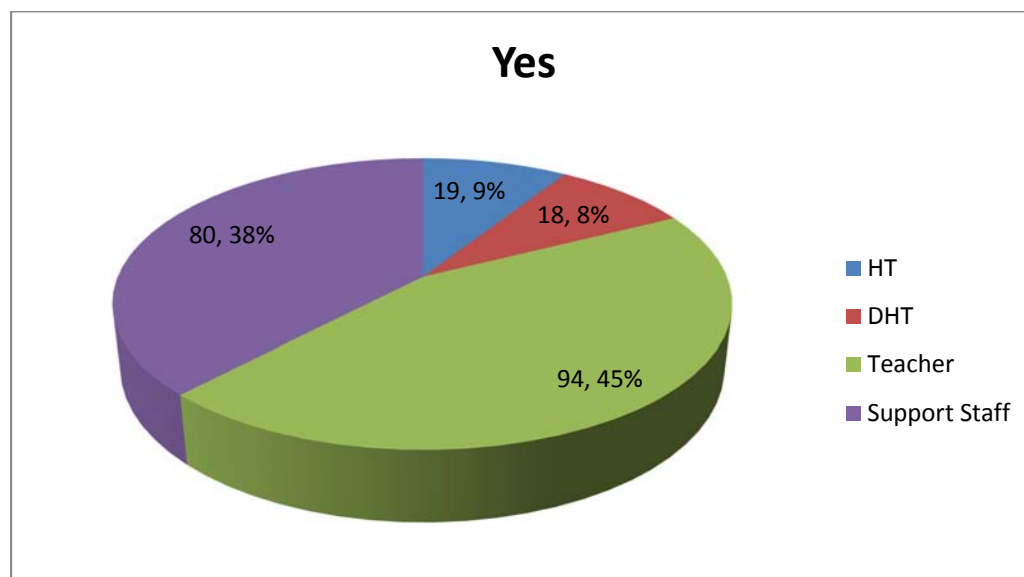
HEAD TEACHERS AND TEACHING STAFF OUTCOME

School Holiday Dates Consultation - 2017 - 2018 Further Consultation - Head Teachers and Teaching Staff

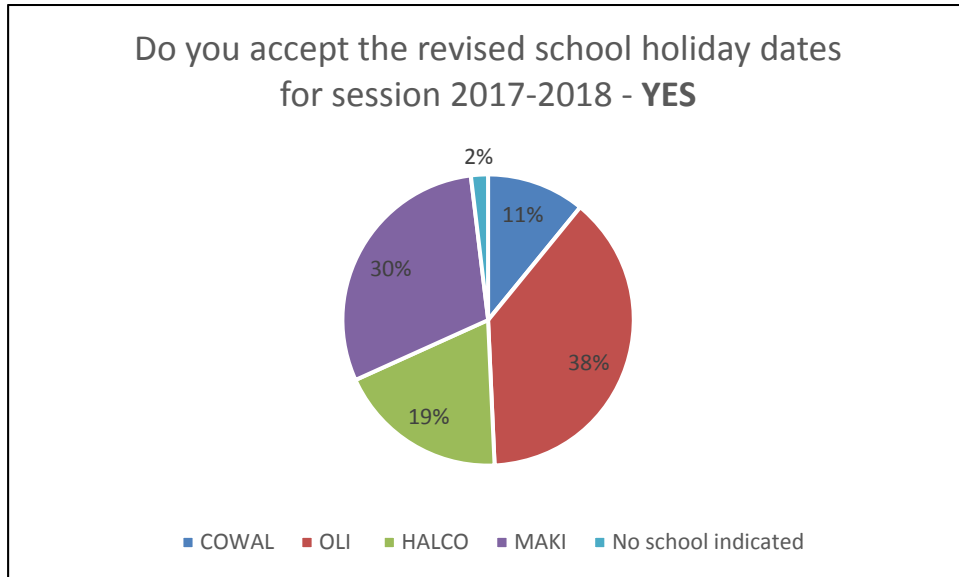
Do you accept the revised school holiday dates for session 2017-2018?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	45%	211
No	55%	263
Any further comments		232
<i>answered question</i>		474
<i>skipped question</i>		0



Percentage Breakdown for Yes

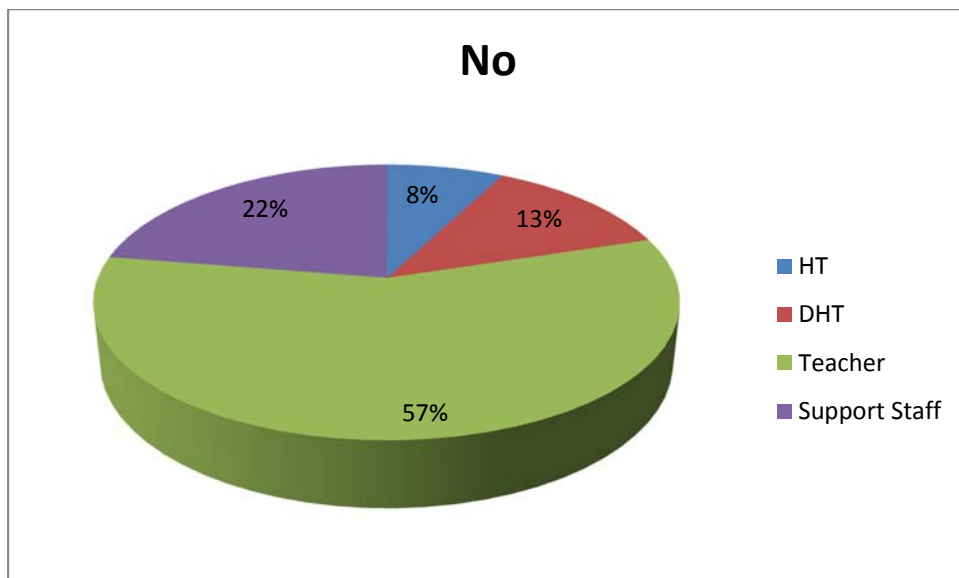


Yes - By Area

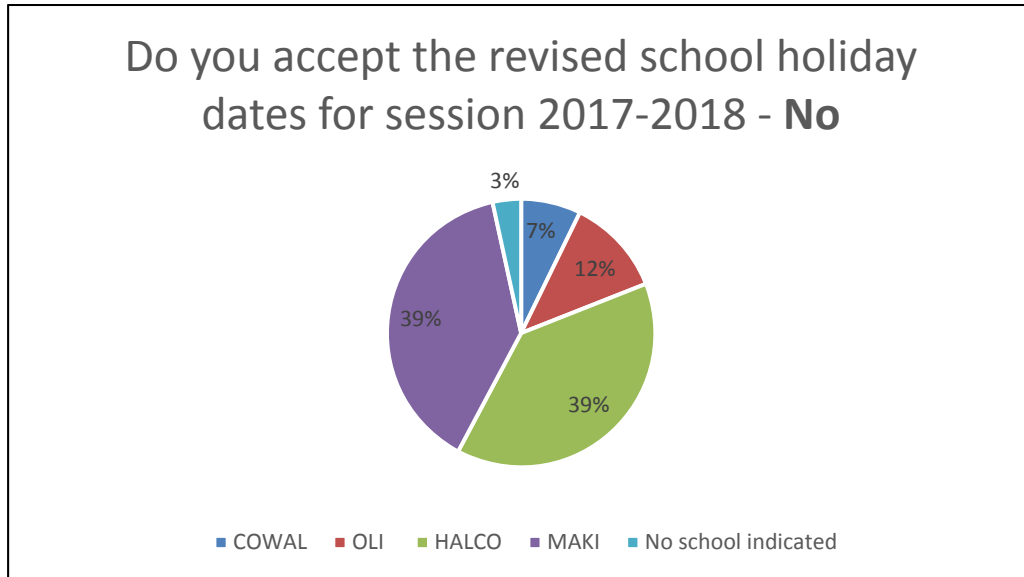


COWAL	23	11%
OLI	81	38%
HALCO	40	19%
MAKI	63	30%
No school indicated	4	2%
Total	211	100%

Percentage Breakdown for No



No - By Area



COWAL	19	7%
OLI	31	12%
HALCO	102	39%
MAKI	102	39%
No school indicated	9	3%
Total	263	100%

Breakdown of Teaching Staff Respondents

Staff	Total	%
HT	39	8%
DHT	51	11%
Teacher	245	52%
Support Staff	139	29%
OVERALL TOTAL	474	100%

Appendix 3 Proposed School Holiday Plan 2017/2018

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	PD	TD	
AUG														IS	IS																		12	14
SEPT																																X	21	21
OCT									H	H	H	H	H			H	H	H	H/IS	H/IS													12	12 or 14
NOV																											IS*				X	22 or 21	22	
DEC																										H	H	H	H	H			16	16
JAN	H	H	H	H	H																												18	18
FEB												H	H	H	H/IS	H/IS														X	X	X	15	15 or 17
MAR																															H		21	21
APR		H	H	H	H	H			H	H	H	H	H																		X		11	11
MAY							H*																			IS*			H*				22 or 21	22
JUN																															X	21	21	

Good Friday	30 March 2018	Pupil Day (PD)	190
Easter Monday	2 April 2018	Teacher Day (TD)	195
If choosing the 2 weeks break in October then you would take the November in-service Day			
If choosing a shorter October break then you would take the May in-service day.			
This pattern of Inset days supports collegiate working in areas rather than across the Authority			
Only one of the May holidays can be taken and area Head Teachers would decide which one suited the cluster best.			

Appendix 4 Proposed School Holiday plan 2018/2019

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	PD	TD	
AUG										IS			IS																				14	16
SEPT																																X	20	20
OCT								H	H	H	H	H			H	H	H	H/IS	H/IS														13	13 or 15
NOV																										IS*						X	22 or 21	22
DEC																									H	H	H	H	H			H	15	15
JAN	H	H	H	H																													19	19
FEB											H	H	H	H/IS	H/IS															X	X	X	15	15 or 17
MAR																																	21	21
APR	H	H	H	H	H			H	H	H	H	H							H													X	10	10
MAY						H*																			IS*			H*					22 or 21	22
JUN																																X	20	20

Good Friday	19th April 2019	Pupil Day (PD)	190
Easter Monday	22nd April 2019	Teacher Day (TD)	195
If choosing the 2 weeks break in October then you would take the November in-service Day			
If choosing a shorter October break then you would take the May in-service day.			
This pattern of Inset days supports collegiate working in areas rather than across the Authority			
Only one of the May holidays can be taken and area Head Teachers would decide which one suited the cluster best.			