



Consultation on school term and holiday dates in Nottinghamshire

Nottinghamshire County Council is consulting on school term times and holiday patterns for three years commencing academic year 2013/2014.

The County Council would like to find out which of two types of school holiday pattern you prefer. Option 1 is the current pattern and option 2 is a new pattern.

Any responses received during this period will help inform the decision made by the Council's Cabinet (Elected Members) regarding the organisation of the school year for all Nottinghamshire Community and Voluntary schools. School term and holiday patterns will then be published for the next three academic years (2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16).

Although Foundation, Trust, Voluntary Aided schools and Academies have responsibility for setting their own term and holiday patterns, the Council is committed to working with all these parties to try to ensure that the school year is as consistent as possible across Nottinghamshire.

There is a current legal requirement for pupils to attend 190 school days per academic year. However, local authorities can choose the way in which those school days are allocated.

The consultation period will end on **15 April 2012**.

Any proposed changes would be subject to approval by the Council's Cabinet in June 2012.

Consultation options

The two options on which we are now consulting are shown opposite.

Option 1

The **current**, traditional term and holiday pattern, based on the following principles:

- There should be three school terms per academic year
- The autumn term should begin as close as possible to 1 September
- Teaching and learning blocks should be as equal as possible in length
- 'Split' weeks (i.e. weeks that include a combination of term dates and school holidays) should be kept to a minimum
- There should be a summer holiday of approximately six weeks

Option 2

The traditional term and holiday pattern of three terms but with a **fixed break** of two weeks at the end of the Spring Term, based on the following principles:

- There should be three school terms per academic year
- The autumn term should begin as close as possible to 1 September
- Teaching and learning blocks should be as equal as possible in length
- 'Split' weeks (i.e. weeks that include a combination of term dates and school holidays) should be kept to a minimum
- There should be a summer holiday of approximately six weeks
- There will be a fixed two week break at the end of the Spring term. Easter would normally fall within these two weeks, but there are occasions when it will not. Schools would continue to be closed on public holidays.

FAQ's

1 What is the consultation about?

We would like to find out whether people in Nottinghamshire would prefer to keep the current term and holiday pattern for schools in the county or change to a model which incorporates a fixed two week break at the end of the Spring term. Easter would normally fall within these two weeks but there are occasions when it will not. Schools would continue to be closed on public holidays.

2 Why are we consulting now?

The County Council has set its school holiday patterns up to 2012/13. We are now consulting on proposed school holiday patterns for a further three academic years.

3 How might a new model differ from the current one?

If we moved to a fixed Spring break model instead of the current holiday pattern the changes would include:

- A greater chance of even term lengths in the Spring and Summer terms
- A fixed two week Spring break that would not always be tied to the Easter public holidays (Schools would continue to be closed on public holidays)
- Relatively little disruption to implement any changes

4 Will there still be the same amount of holiday for pupils and teachers?

Yes, the total number of holiday weeks will not change.

5 Will this mean a change to the number of working days for teachers?

No, teachers will still work for 195 days a year in school, of which five are administrative and training days.

6 Which schools would be affected by a change?

All Nottinghamshire schools which are maintained by the local authority, i.e. Community and Voluntary schools.

7 Can Academies choose their own term and holiday dates anyway?

Yes, they can, as can other types of school such as Foundation, Trust, Voluntary Aided and Free schools. However, we are committed to working with these schools in order to try to ensure that school dates are as consistent as possible across the county.

8 Who are you consulting with?

We are actively seeking the views of a range of people and groups directly affected by this issue, and from any other Nottinghamshire residents who have a view.

9 What are neighbouring Local Authorities doing?

Nottingham City Council has recently undertaken its own consultation in order to obtain the views of City residents. It has decided to introduce a new model of school year based upon five terms, commencing 2013/14. Other local authorities that border Nottinghamshire have told us that they have no immediate plans to consult on changing their school term and holiday patterns.

FAQ's

10 When does the consultation begin and end?

The consultation runs from 23rd January 2012 to 15 April 2012.

11 How can I have my say?

You can complete the online response form available via Nottinghamshire County Council's website, at:

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/schooltermconsultation

Alternatively, you can e-mail us at schooltermconsultation@nottscc.gov.uk. Please entitle your message 'school term consultation'.

The deadline for responses is 15 April 2012.

You can also return the form overleaf to us at:

School Term Consultation
Education Improvement Service Business Support Team
Lawn View House
40 Station Road
Sutton-in-Ashfield
Notts. NG17 5GA

Draft examples of each model for the next three years are available from **www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/schooltermconsultation**

12 What will happen after the consultation?

The results of this consultation will be considered by the Council's Cabinet who will then decide which model to adopt.

Any changes would not take effect until 1st September 2013 and will be publicised widely.

*Please complete the response form overleaf.
You can use this space below to add further comments.*

This leaflet can be made available in other languages and format on request.

Consultation

The County Council is considering whether to change the way the school year is organised. Completing the information below will help inform our decisions.

The closing date for responses is 15 April 2012. Please indicate below your preferred option:

Option 1 - 3 Term model
This is the **current** model operating in Nottinghamshire

Option 2 - Fixed Spring break model
This would be a **new** model for Nottinghamshire

About you

It will also help us to analyse responses across the County if we know more about you.

Please indicate which group or groups best describes you

Parent/Carer Teacher Non teaching school staff Governor

Other (please specify)

Primary school Secondary school Special school Academy school

Nottinghamshire County Council employee

School age pupil age 5 - 18 FE college

Other (please specify)

If you are parent/carer which school does your child attend?

If you are a pupil, please let us know which school you are at

If you are a governor, teacher or non teaching member of a school, please let know us which school

Which area do you live e.g NG18

To which of these ethnic groups do you consider you belong?

White - British White-Irish White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller White - Other
 Mixed - White & Black Caribbean Mixed - White & Black African Mixed - White & Asian
 Mixed - Other Asian - Indian Asian - Pakistani Asian - Bangladeshi Chinese
 Asian - Other Black - Caribbean Black - African Black - Other Other ethnic group

Thank you for your response.

post: School Term Consultation, Education Improvement Service Business Support Team
Lawn View House, 40 Station Road, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts. NG17 5GA

visit: www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/schooltermconsultation

e-mail: schooltermconsultation@nottscc.gov.uk.

Don't forget, you can also log onto the County Council website by visiting your local library.

Closing date for responses is 15th April 2012