

Recommendation 1:

That Cabinet considers the overall results from the responses received from Cardiff's Schools and decides whether it should undertake formal consultation with the view to seeking the Welsh Government's approval to change the School Term Dates for Cardiff's schools.

RESPONSE: THE RECOMMENDATION IS NOT ACCEPTED.

The Cabinet is recommended to refer the issue on changes to term times to Welsh Government for their consideration, as to whether they would wish to undertake a coordinated national consultation on this matter.

In responding to the first part of the recommendation from the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, it is clear that the Welsh Government Cabinet Secretary statement from June 2017 is an important point of reference. Welsh Government expect to see a high degree of harmonisation across Wales on term dates. Cardiff acting independently and undertaking its own consultation on significant changes works against this expectation.

Any significant amendment to term dates would need to align closely with nationally agreed schedules for examinations and tests in schools, together with nationally agreed conditions of service for school based staff, including teachers.

Recommendation 2:

Inform Schools Governing Bodies that they may wish to amend their Inset days to link with Eid al- Adha and Diwali.

RESPONSE: THE RECOMMENDATION IS ACCEPTED.

A number of factors should be considered by schools in determining their inset days. Where schools in a network or cluster align inset days they can provide important opportunities for collaborative professional development. Consideration of religious festivals is also an important factor in some school communities. However it should be borne in mind that the scheduling of inset days on such religious festivals would also impact on staff who themselves may be wishing to celebrate the festivals.