

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 1 The school year will consist of 195 school days. Pupils must attend on 190 of those days.
- 2 The starting point for consideration of each year's holiday pattern will be the pattern recommended by the LGA for that school year modified as per these principles.
- 3 Wherever possible, in any academic year, terms should be of equal length and split weeks avoided or kept to a minimum. Where there is an odd number of weeks the second half term should be shorter of the two.
- 4 **Start of the School Year**  
The school year will normally start on the first day of September\*
- 5 **Autumn Half Term**  
The Autumn half term break will be five days which are the last period Monday to Friday in October. According to the year, October half term can start as early as Monday, 21 October and as late as Monday, 27 October.
- 6 **Christmas Break**  
The Christmas break will include at least 10 school days, and will normally start at the end of the school day on the Friday which is on, or otherwise immediately prior to, 22 December. It will include the New Year's Day holiday which is outside that period, and the day after New Year's Day, where this is a weekday.
- 7 **February Half Term**  
The February half term holiday will be five days Monday to Friday, which divides the term as far as possible into two equal parts. Where there is an odd number of weeks the second half will be the shorter of the two.
- 8 **Easter Break**  
The Spring Term will normally end at the close of the afternoon session on the Friday before Good Friday. The holiday will be 10 schools days.  
  
Where the LGA recommended patterns would result in a break between the Easter bank holidays and the school Easter holidays, consideration will be given to modifying Easter to incorporate the bank holidays in the school holiday. The Easter bank holidays could be at the start (with the Spring Term ending at the close of the afternoon session on the Thursday before Good Friday), middle, or end of the school Easter break, but never outside the break itself.
- 9 **Spring Bank Half Term**  
The Spring Bank half term will be five days Monday to Friday from the statutory holiday which falls as the last Monday in May.
- 10 **End of School Year**  
Taking into account the above pattern, term will end on the date which achieves 195 school days of which five days shall be declared training days. The term will normally end on the third Friday in July

The summer break will not be less than five weeks and preferably not less than six weeks.

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\* During the consultation it was proposed that for Barnsley schools the first day of term should be a Monday in order that staff and children do not start a new school year in a split week.