

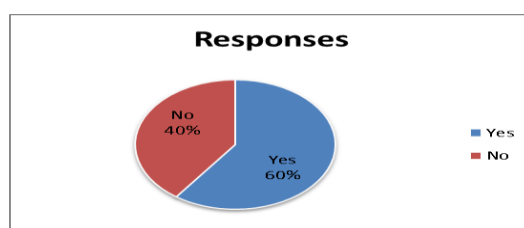
Consultation on School Holiday and Term Time Dates for Local Authority Maintained Schools in Nottinghamshire.

May 2015

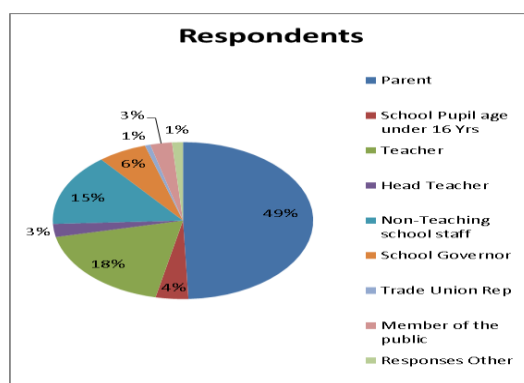
Consultation Feedback

- A period of consultation took place between 10 February 2015 and 10 April 2015 which allowed schools, parents and other organisations the opportunity to comment on the proposed holiday and term dates for 2016/2017, 2017/2018 and 2018/2019.
- Survey Monkey was used to develop a public questionnaire around 3 key questions:

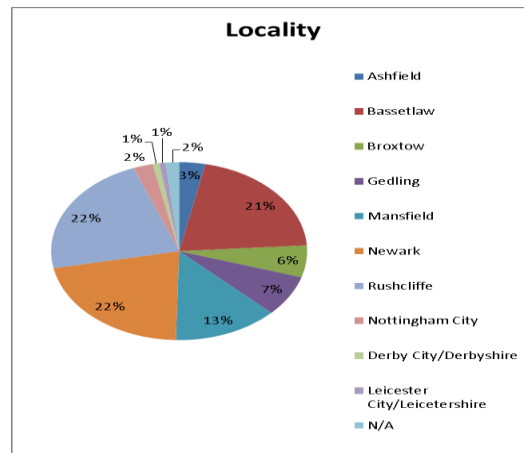
1) Do you agree with the model proposed for 2016/2017, 2017/2018 and 2018/2019?



2) Are you responding as:



3) Where is the educational establishment that you/your child study/work located?



- An opportunity was provided to allow respondents to provide free text to explain their reasoning for their responses.
- There were **120** responses in total, with **73 (61%) agreeing** with the dates proposed
- Four people added a comment to the 'Yes/no' question and analysis of these responses suggests that **1** respondent fully agreed with the proposed holiday pattern and **3** respondents partially agree, with some reservations.
- Of the **78** other free text comments, concerns were raised around 6 key themes:
 - 1) **16** respondents raised concerns that Nottinghamshire County Council school holiday pattern is different to that of other local authorities, these concerns were raised in relation to teachers working in different authorities to that where their own children attend school, difficulties arranging childcare and difficulties facing working parents.
 - 2) **9** respondents suggested the development of a holiday pattern that is different to other local authorities thus allowing access to cheap holidays
 - 3) **16** respondents raised concerns about the Autumn term being too long especially in relation to younger children and the impact this will have on them
 - 4) **16** respondents raised concerns in relation to split weeks and finding these difficult to manage in relation to holidays and child care.
 - 5) **12** respondents raised concerns about the fixed spring break holiday as opposed to the holiday being arranged around the Easter bank holiday.
 - 6) **9** respondents requested shorter summer holidays and longer half term breaks suggesting a 5 term year.
- A number of responses made suggestions in relation to specific years and dates. Primarily, these were to avoid split weeks and/or to ensure that the Christmas break was neither too early nor too late. These suggestions have been considered and informed the final recommendations.

LA response to Consultation feedback.

1) Nottinghamshire County Council school holiday pattern is different to that of other local authorities:

There is no regional or national directive for the setting of holiday dates and individual local authorities set their own patterns based on local criteria. Currently, all Academies are responsible for setting their own dates and some choose to set a different pattern to that of the local authority

and indeed neighbouring local authorities. It will therefore be the case that variation of school holidays between authorities will continue.

2) The development of a holiday pattern that is different to other local authorities thus allowing access to cheap holidays:

When setting school holidays dates, the local authority considers where possible, patterns of neighbouring authorities which allows better planning for teachers, parents and the local community. The possibility of cheap holidays is not a consideration when setting school term dates.

3) The length of Autumn term:

Autumn term is always the longest term each year. It was felt that one or two extra days at the end of term was better than having two more split weeks.

4) Split weeks:

Whilst we try to avoid split weeks, it is inevitable that some terms will have to have split weeks to allow the statutory number of teaching days (190)

5) fixed spring break holiday:

There was extensive consultation in 2012 which determined the preferred model of a fixed spring break.

6) Shorter summer holidays:

There was extensive consultation in 2012 which determined the preferred model of retaining a 6 week summer break.