

11th December 2018

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff & Governors,

The Local Authority (LA) is currently undertaking a statutory consultation process regarding proposed changes to admissions policies and admission arrangements at various schools in the Borough **and also the school terms and holiday dates for 2020/21 affecting all LA maintained schools.**

You can read the full consultation and comment on these proposals on the council website: <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/topic/nursery-and-school-admissions>

Headteachers of schools in the Heaton's cluster have discussed the proposed holiday and term dates for the academic year 2020/21. Having considered the proposals carefully, with particular regard to children's well-being and learning, we are concerned about some aspects of the proposals including;

- The imbalance of school days across the three terms whereby the Autumn term would be 72 school days, the Spring term would be 50 and the Summer term would be 73. The Spring term (between Christmas and Easter holidays) already tends to be the shortest term and yet it is often when we see real progress in learning and when crucial teaching in preparation for assessments takes place. We believe that shortening it even more than usual will be detrimental to children's learning and progress.
- The longer than usual Christmas holiday (Tuesday 22nd December - Monday 11th January). Working parents may struggle to find childcare as holiday clubs/ sports activities may not be as readily available at this time. Other children and families are particularly vulnerable due to increased costs around Christmas and this combined with a longer holiday when children are less likely to be able to participate in outdoor activities may put increased pressure on families.
- The unprecedented proposed late finish to the school year with secondary schools finishing on 29th July and primary schools finishing on 5th August 2021.

The consultation is open until 31/12/18 and we urge everyone to respond so that your views are heard. If you do not agree with the proposals it is possible to click "do not support" to both options and to put comments in the text box instead. However it is important to comment as an individual and write your views in your own words.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Yours faithfully,

Headteachers & Chairs of Governing Boards, Heaton's schools

