

January Hot Topic: School Calendar Consultation Under 7's

Information for facilitator

This month's matter is focusing on the Welsh Government's proposals to amend school term dates.

Our office will be responding to this and we would like to include the voices of children, young people and the adults who support them within our consultation response to Welsh Government.

Activity	Extra resources / additional information
Start the session by reminding children about their safe space.	If you haven't created one yet, we have a guide for creating one here.
Show children this video to start the session.	<p>Video information (in case tech fails):</p> <p>Hello, I work for Rocio, she is a person who helps you get your rights. Your rights are the things that you need to grow up feeling happy, healthy and safe.</p> <p>Every month we are asking children all over Wales to tell us what they think about a topic.</p> <p>This month we want to know what you think about the school holidays, this is because Welsh Government are thinking about making some changes.</p> <p>We will be using your answers to tell Welsh Government what we think should happen.</p>

	<p>One of the changes Welsh Government want to make is they would like to make the summer holiday shorter and make some half terms longer.</p> <p>The amount of time you will have in school will remain the same.</p> <p>We want you to spend some time thinking about what you like and don't like about the long summer holiday.</p> <p>We will tell you what we did with this information next month.</p>
<p>Use this powerpoint during the session.</p> <p>Read and explain the information about Rocio.</p>	<p>Powerpoint information (in case tech fails):</p> <p>'This is Rocio. Rocio Cifuentes is the Children's Commissioner for Wales. Rocio's job is to keep children in Wales happy, healthy and safe. Rocio would like to hear what children think about the school summer holiday. Rocio will then let the Welsh Government know what you think.'</p>
<p>Hold a discussion (positives) Share Ceri's character with the children. Ceri loves 6 weeks off over the school holiday why does she enjoy a long holiday?</p> <p>Ideas for the discussion:</p>	<p><i>Please note: There is a box in the survey for you to add responses from the children and add any other observations you make as the facilitator.</i></p>



<p>You could try the following ideas to support the discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ask children to discuss the idea in a pair/ small group and then feed back to the whole group. <p>Share their thoughts here.</p>	<p>You may want to support the discussion by adding in a supporting question:</p> <p><i>What do you think about having six weeks holiday over the summer? What do you enjoy about this?</i></p>
<p>Hold a discussion (negatives) Share Sam's character with the children. Sam doesn't like 6 weeks off over the school holiday, why do they not enjoy a long holiday?</p> <p>Ideas for the discussion: You could try the following ideas to support the discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ask children to discuss the idea in a pair/ small group and then feed back to the whole group. <p>Upload their thoughts here.</p>	<p><i>Please note: There is a box in the survey for you to add responses from the children and add any other observations you make as the facilitator.</i></p> <p>Supporting question:</p> <p><i>What do you not enjoy about a long summer holiday?</i></p>
<p>Finish the session by reminding pupils that we will feedback an update at the start of next month.</p>	<p>You may want to remind pupils of their Safe Space and remind them who they can speak to in school if they feel worried.</p>

Link to Welsh Government Consultation

We would also encourage all young people to take part in the Welsh Government consultation.

You can find the consultation (which close on 13/02/24) and easy read documents [here](#).

These links will allow young people to fully consider the proposals and to respond directly to the Welsh Government:



- gov.wales/schoolyear
- llyw.cymru/flwyddynysgol