School Session Times Policy

Ffederasiwn Ysgolion **Llanidloes** Schools' Federation

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Background

1. The Education (School Day and School Year) (Wales) Regulations 2003 apply to schools maintained by LAs and to special schools (whether or not so maintained). They make provision (among other things) for a school day which is ordinarily to be divided into two sessions (with a break in the middle), and for schools (other than nursery schools) to meet for at least 380 sessions, which equates to 190 days, during any school year.

2. The standard terms and conditions for teachers provide for 195 working days, of which 190 are teaching days. The remaining 5 days requires them to be available for other duties, such as training.

Schools Prevented from Meeting

3. Where a school is prevented from meeting it must make up lost sessions where that is reasonably practicable. Loss of sessions resulting from planned closures of a school due to building work or relocation do not constitute a school being “prevented” from meeting. If such projects risk a lack of access to the school premises for learning purposes, then governing bodies should do their best to ensure that alternative arrangements are made for the school to meet elsewhere or at another time in agreement with staff, pupils and parents.

Setting the School Day and Term

4. Section 32 of the Education Act 2002 states that:

In the case of community, voluntary controlled or community special schools or a maintained nursery school:

i. the LA shall determine the dates when the school terms and holidays are to begin and end;
ii. subject to paragraphs 7 and 8 below, the governing body determine the times of the school sessions.

5. Following the coming into force of the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008, every LA in Wales has a responsibility to promote sustainable modes of travel and to improve the effectiveness of travel arrangements made, or to be made, under the Measure.

6. Section 21 of the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 amends Section 32 of the Education Act 2002 to allow that, where a LA is satisfied that changing a school’s session time at the beginning or end of a school day, would promote sustainable modes of travel or would improve the efficiency and effectiveness of travel arrangements, it can change those times.

7. Following the coming into force of the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008, every LA in Wales has a responsibility to promote sustainable modes of travel and to improve the effectiveness of travel arrangements made, or to be made, under the Measure. Further information on the Measure is given in this Guide at Chapter 15 on Behaviour and Attendance and Chapter 25 on Health, Safety and Welfare.

8. Section 21 of the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 amends Section 32 of the Education Act 2002 to allow that, where a LA is satisfied that changing a school’s session

time at the beginning or end of a school day, would promote sustainable modes of travel or would improve the efficiency and effectiveness of travel arrangements, it can change those times.

9. The power of a governing body of a foundation, voluntary aided or foundation special school to fix the dates of terms and holidays is unchanged by section 21.

Changing of School Session Times

10. The Changing of School Session Times (Wales) Regulations 2009 came into force on 1 April 2009 (and revoked the Changing of School Session Times (Wales) Regulations 2000). The procedure that must be followed by either the LA or the Governing Body can be found at the link below:

https://beta.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-03/22-the-school-year-and-session-times.pdf

11. Sessions must allow sufficient lesson time to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum that includes the national curriculum and religious education. Schools are free to decide the length of each lesson but current recommendations per week are a minimum weekly lesson time of 25 hours for 12-16 year olds.

12. The suggested minimum weekly lesson times relate to the hours during which pupils are being taught. The recommended lesson hours above include religious education but do not include the act of collective worship, nor do they include registration or breaks. Enough time should be allowed within school sessions for all these activities.

23. The headteacher must make information available to parents and others about the starting and finishing times of the school sessions.

The Law

- The Education Act 2002, Section 32
- The Education (School Day and School Year) (Wales) Regulations 2003
- The Education (School Day and School Year) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006
- The Education (School Day and School Year) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2008
- The Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008
- The Changing of School Session Times (Wales) Regulations 2009

Appendix 1

Llanidloes C P School Session Times

Whole school ***Ysgol gyfan***	*Start/*Cychwyn	08.55
Reception, Years 1 & 2	*Morning break* / Toriad bore	*10.30 – 10.45*
	Lunch / Cinio	*11.40 – 13.00*
	End of school / Diwedd ysgol	*15.20*
Years 3- 6	*Morning break* / Toriad bore	*10.30 – 10.45*
	Lunch / Cinio	*12.10 – 13.10*
	End of school / Diwedd ysgol	*15.30*

Llanidloes High School Session Times

Gwers / Lesson 1	08.55 – 09.55
Gwers / Lesson 2	09.55 – 10.55
Egwyl / Break	10.55 – 11.20
Gwers / Lesson 3	11.20 – 12.20
Gwers / Lesson 4	12.20 – 13.20
Cinio / Lunch	13.20 – 14.05
Cofrestru / Registration	14.05 – 14.35
Gwers / Lesson 5	14.35 – 15.35