

Matter followed by:
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Reference(s) : PC/PP/NR/2014

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GENERAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE DRAFTING OF THE SCHOOL CALENDAR **Version adopted by the School Committee on the 19th February 2015**

The School Committee from the 19th February 2015 has adopted the following general framework for the drafting of the school calendar on February 20th 2015.

- **General conditions**

The school calendar must:

- include a minimum of 36 school weeks for students
- be one calendar for the whole school (there should not be a different calendar for primary and secondary)
- have a minimum of 4 holiday periods between the first day of school and the last day of school;
- prioritise a school routine of 7 weeks at school and two weeks holidays or, otherwise 5/6 school weeks followed by one week holiday.

- **Conditions related to the first day of school**

The first day of school is determined in order to allow:

- The arrival of staff who have just been hired;
- To take into account the instructions from the Ministry regarding the beginning of the school year which are communicated beginning of September.

- **Conditions related to the last day of school**

The last day of school must coincide with the date of the last baccalaureate exam (students retaking oral exams) by keeping in mind that the exam calendar is the same for all the schools in the Asia-Pacific zone.

- **Pedagogical conditions**

The school calendar determines the school routine of students, the following pedagogical conditions are therefore important:

- avoiding long breaks
- avoiding long school periods
- No holidays in May and June due to exams and study pathway procedures
- allowing at the most 26 hours/week of school or 936 hours per year.

The working group has decided to determine the elements of stability in the process of drafting the school calendar. The following factors were taken into consideration:

- To set the first day back at school on a Thursday around the 15th August, mid-week if possible, while taking into account the date of the last day of school;
- To plan:
 - o Two week holidays between August and December, one of these holiday periods must coincide with the Australian school holidays at the end of September/beginning of October ;
 - o Four weeks holidays at Christmas which include the date of 24/12
 - o One week holiday at the end of February/beginning of March
 - o Two weeks holidays in April in order to: allow one week holiday which coincide with the NSW school holidays and 9 weeks of class before the last day of school.
 - o To organise Holiday Care at the school during the short breaks and to guarantee by a contract clause with YMCA that childcare will be available during the school holidays which do not coincide with NSW holidays.