

HOLYDAYS OF OBLIGATION & THE STANDARDISED SCHOOL YEAR

Holydays of Obligation, which are days of special worship and celebration, are a valuable expression of the ethos of a Catholic school. All Catholic schools should, in so far as is possible, observe Holydays of Obligation.

The two Holydays of Obligation which are relevant to schools for the 2014/2015 academic year are Monday, 8th December 2014 and Tuesday, 6th January 2015. All other Holydays of Obligation fall on weekends or during the standardised holiday closures. The decision as to whether or not a school remains closed on these Holydays of Obligation rests with the Board of Management in consultation with the Trustees/Patron of the school and in co-operation with the Boards of Management of other schools in the area. Should a Catholic school decide to open for the instruction of pupils on Holydays of Obligation, the school community is encouraged to attend Mass within the school day.

School year 2014/2015:

October 2014 mid-term break: Schools will close from Monday, 27th October 2014 to Friday, 31st October 2014, inclusive.

Christmas 2014: Schools will close on Friday, 19th December 2014, which will be the final day of the school term, and will re-open Monday, 5th January 2015.

February 2015 mid-term break: Schools will close on Thursday, 19th February 2015 and Friday, 20th February, 2015. Schools may use 3 discretionary days to extend this break to an alternative option of a 5 day break for the period from Monday, 16th February 2015 to Friday, 20th February, 2015 inclusive unless changes are required as part of contingency arrangements to make up for time lost due to unforeseen school closures.

Easter 2015: Schools will close on Friday, 27th March 2015, which will be the final day of the school term, unless changes are required as part of contingency arrangements to make up for time lost due to unforeseen school closures. Where contingency arrangements are required a school authority may reduce the length of the Easter break by remaining open up to and including Wednesday, 1st April 2015. All schools will re-open on Monday, 13th April 2015.

Schools at primary level are required to be open for tuition for a minimum of 183 days. Boards of Management are referred to *Circular 0016/2014- Standardisation of the School Year in respect of Primary & Post Primary Schools for the years 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17*, which is available to members at www.cpsma.ie.