



Circular 0008/2022

To: The Managerial Authorities of Recognised Primary, Secondary, Community and Comprehensive Schools and Chief Executives of Education and Training Boards (ETB)

New Public Holiday from 2022

1. General

The purpose of this circular is to advise managerial authorities of the Government decision to designate a new public holiday.

Following the Government decision of the 19th January 2022 a once-off public holiday is to be held on Friday 18th March 2022 in recognition of the efforts of the general public, volunteers and all frontline workers during the COVID-19 pandemic and in remembrance of people who lost their lives due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Government also decided that there will be a new permanent public holiday established from 2023 in celebration of Imbolc/St Brigid's day. This will be the first Monday in every February, except where St. Brigid's day, the 1st day of February, happens to fall on a Friday, in which case that Friday will be a public holiday. The first such public holiday will be Monday 6 February 2023.

Consequently, the requirement for a school to be open will reduce from a minimum of 183 to 182 days for primary schools and a minimum of 167 to 166 days for post primary schools. This will take effect from the current school year 2021/22. This additional bank holiday will not impact on the standardised breaks set out in circular 0005/2020.

This circular should be read in conjunction with circular [0005/2020](#).



2. Queries in relation to this circular

Queries in relation to this circular should be emailed to:

schoolgovernance@education.gov.ie

3. Dissemination of circular

A copy of this circular should be provided to members of the board of management and the staff of the school. A copy should also be provided to the parents association. This circular may be accessed on the Department of Education website at gov.ie/education. An Irish version of this circular is also available on the Department's website.

Paraic Joyce
Principal Officer
School Governance Section

February 2022