

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is a key decision within the Council's definition and has been included in the relevant Forward Plan.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CHILDREN'S SERVICES) TO CABINET, 9 FEBRUARY 2022

SCHOOL TERM TIMES AND HOLIDAY DATES FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS (2023-2024)

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek approval for the term times and holiday dates pattern for the 2023-2024 school year to maintain the three-year rolling programme of dates (*Please see Appendix 1*).

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 **The draft proposed term times and holiday dates for 2023-2024 be approved as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report.**

3.0 Introduction

- 3.1 The setting of the three-year rolling programme of school term times was introduced to enable schools to plan strategically over a longer period.
- 3.2 It was agreed that in each successive year the pattern will be extended by a further year to maintain the rolling three-year programme
- 3.3 Term dates are determined by a set of agreed principles adopted by 26 local authorities in the North East of England and the proposed draft is compliant with these principles which are outlined in Appendix 2 of this report.
- 3.4 Consideration was given to a proposed change from the traditional model in 2018-2019 and Barnsley Council undertook discretionary consultation with a wider group of stakeholders than was required statutorily.
- 3.5 Following analysis of the responses, Cabinet determined that the 'traditional' pattern of a long summer break should continue and that full consultation would not be required for the following years unless there was a significant demand for change and to acknowledge that the overall response previously was to remain with the traditional pattern.

4.0 Proposals and Justification

- 4.1 Therefore, it is proposed that the continuation of the current 'traditional' pattern of school term and holiday dates be adopted for the academic year 2023-2024.

- 4.2 No changes are proposed at this time given that schools are still working under significant pressures resulting from Covid and some element of stability would be beneficial.
- 4.3 The traditional pattern meets most of the Guiding Principles of the Yorkshire and North East Regions concerning this matter.

5.0 Consultation

- 5.1 Discussions have also taken place between the four South Yorkshire Local Authorities, as they do on an annual basis, in order to co-ordinate holiday dates as far as possible.
- 5.2 Sheffield City Council and Doncaster MBC both now adopt a fixed Easter holiday pattern. Wakefield MDC is proposing to remain with the traditional pattern. Rotherham MBC is consulting on both the traditional and fixed Easter holiday patterns but have remained with traditional patterns in previous years.
- 5.3 The largest cross border movement of Barnsley pupils is within Rotherham and Wakefield.
- 5.4 The relevant Trade Unions have been consulted and responses have been received from NEU and NASUWT with no objections to the drafts circulated.

6.0 Risk Management

- 6.1 The statutory duty for determining term times and holiday dates for community and voluntary controlled schools remains that of the Local Authority although informal consultation in order to maintain an open and transparent process has been undertaken as above.
- 6.2 There are often minor variances at voluntary aided schools and academies since it is the responsibility of their respective governing bodies to determine their individual dates.

7.0 Financial and Employee Implications

- 7.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

8.0 List of Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1: Draft Proposed Term and Holiday Dates for Barnsley (2023-2024)
Appendix 2: Guiding Principles Analysis for local authorities

9.0 **Background Papers**

- 9.1 If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please email governance@barnsley.gov.uk so that appropriate arrangements can be made

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Financial Implications/Consultation



Joshua Amahwe (26/01/2022)

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*(To be signed by senior Financial Services officer
where there are no financial implications)*