

BARNSELEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CHILDREN'S SERVICES)

**TITLE: SCHOOL TERM TIMES AND HOLIDAY DATES FOR
COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS
2025-2026**

REPORT TO:	CABINET
Date of Meeting	20th March 2024
Cabinet Member Portfolio	CHILDREN'S SERVICES
Key Decision	Yes
Public or Private	Public

Purpose of report

To seek approval for the term times and holiday dates pattern for the 2025-2026 school year to maintain the three-year rolling programme of dates.

Council Plan priority

The proposed arrangements primarily support the Council Plan's priority for a ***Learning Barnsley*** through which children and young people achieve the best outcomes, including improved educational attainment, by admission and attendance at schools' which are judged to be 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted

Recommendations

That Cabinet:-

- 1. Approve the draft proposed term times and holiday dates for 2025-2026.**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The setting of the three-year rolling programme of term times was introduced to enable schools to plan strategically over a longer period.
- 1.2 It was agreed that in each successive year the pattern will be extended by a further year to maintain the rolling three-year programme.
- 1.3 Term dates are determined by a set of agreed principles adopted by 26 local

authorities in the North East of England (including the Yorkshire and Humber Region) and the proposed draft is compliant with these.

2. PROPOSAL

- 2.1 It is proposed that the continuation of the current 'traditional' pattern of school term and holiday dates be adopted for the academic year 2025-2026. Due to where Easter falls in 2026, the traditional pattern is in line with a fixed Easter model.
- 2.2 The proposed pattern meets the Guiding Principles of the Yorkshire and North East Regions.
- 2.4 The proposed pattern is aligned with the proposed dates for neighbouring authorities, Sheffield, Rotherham, Wakefield, Doncaster, and Kirklees. This is a key factor in determining dates due to teaching staff who reside outside of Barnsley with school-age children.

3. IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

3.1 Financial and Risk

There are no implications arising from this report.

3.2 Legal

The proposed traditional pattern is compliant with the legal requirement that local authority-maintained schools must open for at least 380 sessions (190 days) during a school year, this equates to 195 term time days, minus 5 inset days set by each school where children are not required to attend.

3.3 Equality

The proposed policy complies with all relevant legislation and is fair and transparent across the Borough for all service users. An equality impact assessment has been compiled and is appended to this report.

3.4 Sustainability

There are no implications for sustainability in the Borough directly arising through consideration of the proposed school term and holiday dates for the 2025/26 school year.

3.5 Employee

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

3.6 Communications

There are no implications arising from this report.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Discussions have taken place between all regional colleagues including all local authorities in this Region, to co-ordinate holiday dates as far as possible.
- 4.2 The relevant trade unions have been consulted and responses have been received from NASUWT with no objections to the draft circulated.
- 4.3 Primary and secondary headteachers in Barnsley have been consulted, and respondents agreed that the proposed dates support the guiding principles.
- 4.4 The proposed dates are aligned with the proposed dates for neighbouring authorities, Sheffield, Rotherham, Wakefield, Doncaster, and Kirklees.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 The fixed Easter (two week break for the first fortnight in April) option that other local authorities have adopted in recent years is not applicable for 2025-26 as Easter falls in line with a fixed Easter model in 2026 so there was no alternative option to be considered.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The draft proposal to continue with the traditional pattern for Barnsley Community and Voluntary Controlled schools adheres to the agreed Yorkshire and North-East guiding principles.
- 6.2 The proposed traditional pattern ensures that there a fewer split and shorter school weeks to support school attendance.
- 6.3 Trade unions and schools are supportive of remaining with the traditional pattern.
- 6.4 The proposed dates are aligned with neighbouring local authorities.

7. GLOSSARY

None

8. LIST OF APPENDICES

- Appendix 1: Draft proposed School Term and Holiday dates 2025/2026
- Appendix 2: Guiding principles analysis 2025/2026
- Appendix 3: Equality Impact Assessment – School Holiday and Term dates for Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary and Secondary Schools (2025/2026)

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

10. REPORT SIGN OFF

Financial consultation & sign off	Senior Financial Services officer consulted and date <i>Joshua Amahwe (08/02/2024)</i>
Legal consultation & sign off	Legal Services officer consulted and date <i>Sajeda Khalifa</i> <i>05.02.2024</i>

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