

FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION

3 August 2021

Report of the Executive Director for Children's Services

School Term Dates 2021-22

1. Divisions Affected

1.1 County-wide.

2. Key Decision

2.1 This is not a Key Decision.

3. Purpose

3.1 To ask the Cabinet Member to note that term dates for 2021-22 need to be amended by schools and academies closing for an additional day to take account of the extra bank holiday in 2022 to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen.

3.2 That the Cabinet Member notes that each school or academy will be asked to determine the additional day they will close.

4. Information and Analysis

4.1 In April 2019 the Cabinet member agreed the recommended term dates for academic years from 2020-21 through to 2024-25.

4.2 Under the Education (School Day and School Year) Regulations 1999 (as amended) all maintained schools should hold at least 380 half day

school sessions during the school year. Schools determine when a further 10 half days are to be taken as professional development days for staff.

- 4.3 The Education (School Day and School Year) (England) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations which came into force on 1 June 2021 amends the 1999 Regulations. The effect is to reduce the minimum number of sessions which must be held in the school year 2021-2022 from 380 to 378 (one session equals half a day). This is to enable schools to close for the additional bank holiday to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen or where schools are already closed, as is the case in Derbyshire, close on another day to compensate.
- 4.4 The DfE have confirmed that they intend to amend the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document to reflect the additional bank holiday in teachers' terms and conditions and will be consulting with teacher unions on the proposed changes over the summer as part of the Governments consultation process for the 2021 pay award.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Consultation has taken place with neighbouring authorities. Some have determined revised term dates which close schools a day earlier in the spring or summer term whilst others have adopted a flexible approach which enables each school to determine their own term dates to allow for the additional closure day at a local level.

6. Background Papers

- 6.1 Non identified.

7. Recommendation(s)

- 7.1 In anticipation of the proposed changes being implemented with the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document 2021, the Cabinet Member is asked to note the proposal in relation to school term dates to be recommended to Derbyshire schools and academies in 2021-22.

8. Reasons for Recommendation(s)

- 8.1 The proposal to provide schools with the flexibility to amend their school terms dates for 2021-22 fulfils the legal requirement to reduce the number of school session for the year in a manner which suits the needs of their school community and in an appropriate time scale.

9. Is it necessary to waive the call in period?

9.1 No

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This report has been approved by the following officers:

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| <p>On behalf of:</p> <p>Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer Director of Finance and ICT Managing Executive Director Executive Director(s)</p> | |
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Implications

Financial

- 1.1 The reduction in the number of sessions to 378 will not impact significantly on school funding or finances. Traded Services generating income through sales such as the school meals service will have a marginally reduced opportunity to recover costs but should be able to manage this within the trading year.

Legal

- 2.1 The Education (School Day and School Year) (England) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 amends the Education (School Day and School Year) 1999 Regulations by reducing the minimum number of sessions schools are required to meet in the academic year 2021 to 2022 to enable everyone to take part in the celebrations of the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen.

Human Resources

- 3.1 The recognised Trade Unions and Professional Associations have been consulted about the proposal to provide schools with the flexibility to amend their school terms dates for 2021-22 and did not raise any objections.

Information Technology

- 4.1 None identified

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 5.1 None identified

Other (for example, Health and Safety, Environmental Sustainability, Property and Asset Management, Risk Management and Safeguarding)

- 6.1 None identified