

15 June 2015**Agenda Item: 06****REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION STANDARDS & INCLUSION****APPROVAL OF SCHOOL HOLIDAY AND TERM TIME DATES FOR LOCAL
AUTHORITY MAINTAINED SCHOOLS IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
2016/17, 2017/18 & 2018/19****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek Committee approval for school holiday and term dates for Local Authority maintained schools in Nottinghamshire for 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19, as presented in **Appendix 1**.

Information and Advice

2. The 1996 Education Act gives local authorities a duty to determine school term dates. Schools must be open to pupils for 190 days in an academic year, and 195 days for teachers. The responsibility for setting school holiday and term time dates for all community and voluntary controlled schools within Nottinghamshire lies with the Local Authority (LA). It should be noted that Foundation, Trust, Voluntary Aided schools and Academies are responsible for setting their own holiday patterns.
3. Holiday dates for LA maintained schools in Nottinghamshire are already set up to 2015/16 from the previous consultation that took place in 2012. At the moment, it is unclear whether the Deregulation Bill, that suggests all schools can set their own term dates from September 2015, will come into law. However, at present, the County Council retains a legal responsibility to set holiday dates and even if the 'Deregulation Bill' becomes law in 2015, it is suggested that the LA continues to provide a framework set of dates that schools in Nottinghamshire could follow.
4. When setting dates for future years, the following principles are used:
 - the pattern must comprise 190 pupil days and 195 teacher days
 - ensure that teaching and learning blocks are as equal in length as possible
 - avoid split weeks where possible
 - take account of patterns which our neighbouring local authorities are proposing or adopting
 - individual schools are responsible for setting their own teacher training days (the Council suggests one of these days be taken the first day back in September).

5. A period of consultation on proposed dates took place between 10 February 2015 and 10 April 2015, which allowed schools, parents and other organisations the opportunity to comment and suggest any changes to specific days, within the Local Authority's preferred model of 3 terms, with a spring break in the first two weeks of April.
6. In total, 120 responses were received through the electronic survey monkey platform. Two responses were received by email. The overall response was 61% agreeing with the proposed dates. 39% did not wholly agree with the proposed dates, mostly suggesting changes to specific days within the proposed pattern. A summary of responses to the consultation is attached as **Appendix 2**.
7. Comments received on the proposed dates can be summarised as follows:
 - Nottinghamshire County Council school holiday pattern is different to that of other local authorities
 - a different holiday pattern to other local authorities would allow cheaper holidays
 - the length of autumn term
 - split weeks
 - Easter holiday
 - shorter summer holiday.
8. Following the consultation, it has been decided that whilst some individuals would have preferred slightly different days for some terms, the proposed dates should stand. A detailed response is attached as **Appendix 2**.

Other Local Authorities

9. In setting dates, consideration has been given to term dates of neighbouring authorities, particularly Derbyshire and Nottingham City:
 - **Nottingham City** has a different model to Nottinghamshire having adopted a 5 week summer break, a 2 week October half term break, with a fixed spring break. They have currently only set dates up to 2015/16.
 - **Leicestershire and Leicester City** have traditionally adopted a model that is up to two weeks earlier than other authorities for the summer break and subsequent half term breaks. The Nottinghamshire pattern has always differed from these authorities.
 - **Derbyshire** follow the traditional 3 term pattern with the spring break determined by the Easter Bank holiday dates. As a result of this, the February half term and Easter break has sometimes differed by 1 week. Christmas and summer holiday dates have broadly been the same, differing by the odd day. Derbyshire has already consulted and set their holiday patterns up to 2018/19 and consideration has been given to their pattern where possible.
 - **Derby City** follows a traditional 3 term pattern, similar to that of Derbyshire.

Other Options Considered

10. Nottinghamshire could simply follow the pattern of another local authority. However, this would have meant changes to the model which has previously been agreed.

Reasons for Recommendation

11. A comprehensive consultation took place in 2012. The process of setting dates for 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 has therefore reflected these outcomes by following the fixed spring term model.

Statutory and Policy Implications

12. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Crime and Disorder Implications

13. Due consideration has been given to crime and disorder issues. The Police services and other voluntary bodies who provide out of holiday care and educational opportunity have key roles to play in reducing crime and increasing self-confidence, emotional resilience for any child or young person engaging with holiday provision.

Finance Implications

14. There are no direct costs involved in the process of setting school holiday dates.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That the suggested school holiday and term dates for Local Authority maintained schools in Nottinghamshire for 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19, as set out as **Appendix 1**, be approved.

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Constitutional Comments (KK 26/05/15)

15. The proposal in this report is within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee.

Financial Comments (SS 29/05/15)

16. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

School term and holiday patterns 2013-2016 - report to Children and Young People's Committee on 18 June 2012

School holiday and term dates for Local Authority maintained schools in Nottinghamshire for 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 - report to Children and Young People's Committee on 9 February 2015

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All

C0648