

18 December 2017

Agenda Item: 7

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION, LEARNING & SKILLS

SCHOOL HOLIDAY AND TERM TIME DATES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY MAINTAINED SCHOOLS IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FOR 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22 AND 2022/23

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Committee approval of the proposed school holiday and term time dates for 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 for Local Authority maintained schools in Nottinghamshire.

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 2018/19 from the previous consultation that took place in 2015.
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 neighbouring local authorities are proposing or adopting
 - Individual schools are responsible for setting their own teacher training days. The Council suggests that one of these days be taken on the first day back in September.
5. A period of consultation on proposed dates took place between 29 August and 8 October 2017, which allowed key stakeholders, particularly parents as well as school staff and governors and other organisations, the opportunity to comment and suggest any changes to specific days, within the Local Authority's two proposed options. The two

proposals on which the Council sought the views of key stakeholders, particularly parents, as well as teachers, non-teaching staff, governors and others are as follows:

- **Option 1:** This proposal follows the current model, which includes 6 weeks for the summer holiday and a fixed spring break (generally the first two weeks in April) as shown in **Appendix A**
- **Option 2:** This proposes a slightly shorter 5 week summer holiday and a 2 week October half term break, with a fixed spring break (generally the first two weeks in April) as shown in **Appendix B**.

In addition the consultation offered the opportunity for respondents to submit free text comments and alternative suggestions.

6. In total, 6,356 responses were received through the electronic Survey Monkey platform, 43 responses were received by email and 135 responses were received by post. The overall response was 57.4% in favour of Option 2. The majority of parents (who accounted for 63% of overall responses to the consultation), non-teaching staff and school governors (14% of overall responses) preferred Option 2. The majority of teachers and headteachers (18% of overall responses) and trade unions (0.31% of overall responses) preferred Option 1. A summary of responses to the consultation is attached as **Appendix C**.
7. The comments received on the proposed dates can be summarised as follows:
 - no change would be better, reflected in responses from those who preferred option 1
 - a 6 week summer break is too long
 - 2 weeks in May would be better
 - Spring break should be fixed
 - Easter in the middle of the 2 weeks
 - 1 week in October would be better
 - 2 weeks in October would be better
 - longer Christmas instead of October
 - bring the summer holiday forward
 - have the summer break later (start in August)
 - full weeks not half weeks.
8. Where possible the dates in both Option 1 and Option 2 ensure full weeks wherever possible, allowing for the Bank Holidays and the 5 statutory teacher days.
9. In light of comments related to Option 2, with regard to specific dates, it was highlighted that the second half of summer term in some years was over 8 weeks and that was felt to be too long. Some specific dates have therefore been revised to try to address this, whilst keeping with the principle of a 5 week summer break and 2 week October half term break.

Other Local Authorities

10. In setting dates, consideration has been given to term dates of neighbouring authorities, particularly Derbyshire and Nottingham City.
- **Nottingham City** has a slightly different model to Nottinghamshire's current model having adopted a 5 week summer break, a 2 week October half term break, with a fixed Spring Break. They recently set dates up to 2021/22, continuing with the 5 week summer break model.
 - **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 2019/20 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

11. 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

12. A comprehensive consultation took place in 2015. The process of setting dates for 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 has therefore reflected the 2015 outcomes by offering an alternative to the current model of six weeks for the summer holiday and a longer break in October, reflecting comments in the last consultation that the autumn term and the summer break were too long.
13. The majority of respondents favour Option 2, for a slightly shorter 5 week summer holiday and a 2 week October half term break, with a fixed spring break (generally the first two weeks in April).

Statutory and Policy Implications

14. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment 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

15. 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

16. There are no direct costs involved in process of setting school holiday dates. The responsibility for setting school holiday dates currently falls within the remit of the Group Manager for Support to Schools.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That Committee approves the school holiday and term time dates for 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 for Local Authority maintained schools in Nottinghamshire as set out in **Appendix D**.

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Constitutional Comments (SMG 06/12/17)

17. The Children and Young People's Committee has responsibility for the functions and powers conferred on or exercisable by the County Council in relation to educational matters. The proposals outlined in this report fall within the remit of this Committee.

Financial Comments (SAS 05/12/17)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Approval of school holiday and term time dates for Local Authority maintained schools in Nottinghamshire 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 - report to Children and Young People's Committee on 15 June 2015

School holiday and term time dates for Local Authority maintained schools in Nottinghamshire 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 18 September 2017.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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