

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021

Agenda Item: 4

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, LEARNING AND  
SKILLS**

**SCHOOL HOLIDAY AND TERM TIME DATES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY  
MAINTAINED SCHOOLS IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 2023/2024, 2024/2025,  
2025/2026 AND 2026/2027**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. This report seeks approval to carry out a statutory consultation on Nottinghamshire County Council's proposed school holiday pattern and term time dates for maintained schools for 2023-2024 to 2026-2027.
2. The report also seeks the approval of Members to specifically consult with non-maintained schools, particularly multi-academy chains who are responsible for setting their own holiday patterns. This is to ensure that Members are able to have clarity about the views of these key partners when setting the school holiday and term dates from 2023-2024 to 2026-2027.
3. To agree the consultation period of 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 until 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021 and to consider feedback from the consultation at the meeting of the Children and Young People's Committee on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

**Information**

4. The 1996 Education Act gives local authorities a statutory duty to determine school term dates and Nottinghamshire County Council is responsible under section 32 of the Education Act 2002 for fixing dates of terms and holidays of maintained schools. Schools must be open to pupils for 190 days in an academic year, and 195 days for teachers.
5. It should be noted however that foundation, trust, voluntary aided schools and academies are responsible for setting their own holiday patterns. Members should be aware that these publicly funded schools are able to consult and set their own term dates which could, and at times do, differ to the dates set by Members for Nottinghamshire's maintained schools.
6. Based on school census data (January 2020), approximately 76,928 pupils attend Nottinghamshire non-maintained schools with 46,439 pupils attending maintained schools. In seeking the views of key stakeholders Members will be increasingly aware that parents

and carers with children attending schools with different governance arrangements are increasingly likely to have to manage different holiday patterns for their children.

7. Nottinghamshire County Council has already set holiday dates for Nottinghamshire maintained schools up to 2022-2023 following the previous consultation that took place in 2017. Other schools have been able to set their own holiday pattern since 2015. Most other schools in Nottinghamshire generally follow the pattern agreed by the Children and Young People's Committee. However, it should be noted that schools which are closer to neighbouring authorities are increasingly setting different holiday patterns to those confirmed by the Council.
8. When setting dates for future years, the following principles have been considered:
  - the pattern must comprise 190 pupil days and 195 teacher days
  - ensuring that teaching and learning blocks are as equal in length as possible
  - split weeks avoided where possible
  - broadly confirm a fixed spring break as close as possible to Easter
  - accepts that 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).

## Consultation

9. A period of consultation between 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021 will allow key stakeholders (that is, parents, governors, teachers and other interested parties) the opportunity to comment on the proposals and suggest any changes to specific days, within the Council's preferred model of three terms.
10. The consultation outlines two proposals:
  - **Option A:** this follows the current model, which includes two weeks for the October half term break, a fixed spring break (generally the first two weeks in April) and generally five weeks break for the summer holiday (**Appendix 1**)
  - **Option B:** this suggests two weeks for the October half term break, a varied spring break and slight changes to the start and end dates for the academic year (**Appendix 2**).
11. To ensure that all stakeholders are informed and have the opportunity to respond to the consultation, it is proposed that a summary of the consultation will be sent by email to all schools in Nottinghamshire including chairs of governors of schools clerked by the Council and neighbouring local authorities. In addition, there will also be publicity via social media and the Council's intranet during the period of consultation.
12. The consultation will include a direct link to the online survey on the Council's public website where respondents will have the opportunity to submit free text for comments and/or alternative suggestions for consideration by Members when reviewing the consultation feedback.

## Other Local Authorities

13. In setting school dates, local authorities are required to consider the patterns already set by neighbouring authorities. As part of this consultation the holiday patterns of the following

authorities have been considered: Derbyshire, Doncaster, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire, Nottingham City and Rotherham. In formulating the two suggestions, officers have reviewed the patterns set by seven authorities for future years where available (**Appendix 3**).

### **Other Options Considered**

14. Members could consider consulting on a wider range of options. In the two options presented, consideration has been given to the feasibility of setting more equal half terms in the summer; however this would involve moving the spring bank holiday week and potentially would impact on secondary exam timetables.
15. There are relatively narrow options available given the set bank holiday periods and the proposals set out will seek the views of all stakeholders on the two options given.
16. Consultation regarding the proposed school holiday pattern and term time dates for maintained schools is not optional.

### **Reasons for Recommendation**

17. To enable the County Council to meet its statutory responsibility to determine school holiday and term time dates for all maintained schools in Nottinghamshire.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

18. 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.

### **Financial Implications**

19. Consideration has been given to using electronic communication wherever possible to reduce postage costs.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

That:

- 1) Members agree the proposal to consult on options for the school holiday pattern for 2023-2024, 2024-2025, 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 until 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021.
- 2) Members agree that views are sought specifically from academies and Multi-Academy Trusts, foundation and voluntary aided schools, given the number of Nottinghamshire pupils now attending non-maintained schools.

- 3) All feedback from the consultation including comments and suggestions are considered at the meeting of the Children and Young People's Committee on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

**Marion Clay**  
**Service Director, Education, Learning and Skills**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

Karen Hughman  
Group Manager, Education Learning and Skills  
T: 0115 977 2572  
E: [karen.hughman@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:karen.hughman@nottscc.gov.uk)

Claire Wilcoxson  
Admissions Team Manager  
T: 0115 977 2640  
E: [claire.wilcoxson@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:claire.wilcoxson@nottscc.gov.uk)

### **Constitutional Comments (KK 08/02/21)**

20. The proposals in this report are within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee.

### **Financial Comments (SS 01/02/21)**

21. Consideration has been given to using electronic communication wherever possible to reduce postage costs. If there are any costs they will be minimal and contained within the service's allocated budget and centrally via the Council's Communications team.

### **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.

[Report of 18 December 2017 – School Holiday and Term Time Dates for Local Authority Maintained Schools in Nottinghamshire for 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23](#)

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All

C1418