

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE
CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S MEETING WITH EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Tuesday 9 April 2019

School Term and Holiday Dates 2020/2021

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To brief Executive Members on responses to proposed school term and holiday dates for 2020/21 and to seek approval to the proposed calendar.

2.0 ISSUES AND BACKGROUND

2.1 School employers are required to set the term dates of their school year. Employers are: the local authority in community, voluntary controlled and community special schools and maintained nursery schools; the governing body in foundation and voluntary aided schools; the academy trust in academies and Free Schools. The Education (School Day and School Year) (England) regulations 1991 require all maintained schools to educate their pupils for at least 380 sessions (190 days) in each school year. These regulations do not apply to academies and Free Schools; the academy trust is responsible for deciding the length of the school year. It is hoped that for consistency across North Yorkshire all schools will adopt the recommended term dates.

2.2 In addition to these teaching days each school has five professional development (PD) days for teaching staff. As in previous years the authority has proposed three of these days. The remaining two days will be identified by each school from the calendar.

2.3 The Local Government Association (LGA) continues to urge local authorities (LA's) to try to achieve a common approach when determining term dates. North Yorkshire County Council is part of the group of LA's across Yorkshire which has agreed a set of guiding principles the aim of which is to achieve more consistent holiday dates across local LA areas. These guiding principles were applied to the production of our proposals for consultation.

2.4 Currently the local authority is still required to set term and holiday dates for community schools, community special schools, voluntary controlled schools, pupil referral units and maintained nursery schools.

2.5 Members are reminded that it had been intended that when the Deregulation Act 2015 came into force, the education clauses would allow all schools to vary school dates. However the provision within the Act to give the governing bodies of community, voluntary controlled, community special schools, and maintained nursery schools in England the responsibility for setting their own school term and holiday dates was not commenced. These schools have not therefore been given the power to set their own term dates.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The authority continues to propose three professional development days. The purpose of this is to continue to achieve efficiency savings by rationalising transport across the county and to make life easier for parents who have children attending different schools. It also enables greater consistency in planning for services such as transport and school meals.

4.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 As noted above at paragraph 2.1, the LA currently has a duty to set dates of terms and holidays for community, voluntary controlled, community special schools and maintained nursery schools under the Education Act 2002 Section 32.

5.0 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN AND RESPONSES

- 5.1 Following discussions with other LA's and based on our agreed guidelines, a single version of a draft calendar was produced which identified 190 days when teachers are available to work and three proposed professional development (PD) days. The headteacher of each school has the discretion to determine two further PD days from the calendar. A copy of this draft calendar is attached at Appendix 1.
- 5.2 The consultation to determine a school calendar for 2020/21 was launched on 01 February 2018 and closed on 15 March 2019. All maintained schools and academies, teachers' associations, trade unions and other local authorities across Yorkshire and the North East were consulted.
- 5.3 18 online responses were submitted, the majority of which, 13 came from primary schools. We received 4 responses from Secondary Schools and 1 response from the National Education Union.
- 5.4 9 of the online respondents expressed their agreement with the proposed Calendar. 1 respondent made no comment. A number of respondents, made comment about Professional Development (PD) Days. Appendix 2 records all online responses.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS/BENEFITS

- 6.1 Many school buses and other vehicles provide a shared service to more than one school. One of the benefits of having three common PD days is that it enables transport to operate at optimum capacity and reduces the environmental impact.

7.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The draft calendar has taken account of consultation and feedback via the School Term Group and is generally supported by the limited consultation feedback with schools and other agencies. The draft calendar is broadly in line with proposals from our neighbouring LA's in which the majority of cross border pupils reside.

8.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 That the term and holiday dates for community, voluntary controlled, community special schools and maintained nursery schools for 2020/21 as set out in the calendar identified at Appendix 1, be approved.

STUART CARLTON
CORPORATE DIRECTOR – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE

Report prepared by William Burchill Admissions and Transport Manager
18 March 2019

School Term Dates – 2020/2021 **Responses**

Carnagill Primary School: It is a very quick start back to school in September after August bank holiday - 1st September.

Federation of Fountains Earth and St Cuthbert's C of E Primary Schools:
Accepted but will be allocating the 5 training days in a different way to those Suggested

Upper Wharfedale: We are in favour of the proposed dates

Riccall Community Primary School: These look good to us.

Sutton on the Forest: Would be sensible to correspond with York Schools too as we have a number of children who feed into York schools. It makes it easier for families organising childcare.

Carleton Endowed CE Primary School: All looks okay to me.

Oatlands Infant School: Having a Monday as the last day of term in July is not helpful as it means we have to use one of our Professional Development days for this. If we didn't, we know that attendance would be poor on that day.

Wheatcroft Primary: The half terms look balanced overall. The proposed dates are acceptable to us.

Bolton on Swale St Mary's CE Primary School: Consultation to liaise with neighbouring authorities for same half term in Oct/Feb/ Easter please.

St Robert's Catholic Primary School: I agree with the proposed dates for 2020/21

Kirby Hill CE Primary School: The suggested dates seem sensible.

Skelton Newby Hall CE Primary School: I would like to propose that the council consider a 2 week autumn half term break. There are many benefits that have been attributed to having a longer break during this lengthy term and believe that with health and wellbeing having a much higher profile in many schools, this would support them in their efforts.

Middleham CE (VA) Primary School: No Response submitted

Carlton in Snaith CPS: The holidays seem fine. No concerns or comments. We clearly would dis-aggregate the 20th July. This gives us flexibility in choosing the 5 PD day. One point I would strongly state if for me is having holidays that align to East Riding and Doncaster is crucial for us. We are very close to the NYCC border and staff members have children (and parents have other children) who attend schools in these surrounding areas. Simultaneous holidays really helps support good attendance and also staff morale and well-being.

Settle College: We would propose to have the 08/9/20, 20/11/20, and 26/07/21 as a training days. We would also propose to NOT have the 12/04/21 as a training day.

Ryedale School: Ryedale School would like to select Thursday 24th June 2021 and Monday 26th July 2021 as our training days.

National Education Union: This year's calendar appears to be rather at odds with most of the rest of England & Wales in respect of this half term. As the Easter holidays are also not totally commensurate, we are experiencing concerns being raised by members. Can we be assured that there is a greater degree of compatibility with other surrounding LAs so that our members with families affected do not have weeks where the holidays differ?

Tadcaster Grammar School: We are happy with the draft Term Dates for 2020/2021. We would like them to match that of both York LA and Leeds LA due to the impact this has on our families who have children in schools in two authorities. We have cross referenced with York LA dates and they match, but it does not appear that Leeds LA have published theirs yet. Regarding the recommended Training Days - we have concerns with them all being on a Monday as this will mean the same lessons will be affected for students, therefore we would like to consider setting our own days (possibly keeping two the same as those recommended).