

Public Document Pack

North Yorkshire Council Children and Young People's Service - Executive Members & Corporate Director Meetings

Tuesday, 21 May 2024 / 1.00 pm

A G E N D A

1 **Apologies for Absence**

2 **Declarations of Interest**

Items for Executive Member decision

3 School term dates for the academic year 2025- 2026 (Pages 3 - 10) (Pages 3 - 10)

To approve the term and holiday dates for community, voluntary controlled, community special schools and maintained nursery schools for 2025/2026 as set out in the calendar identified at Appendix 1.

Items for Corporate Director decision

Any Other Business

4 Date of future formal meetings

Circulation:

Executive Members

Janet Sanderson
Annabel Wilkinson

Officer attendees

Stuart Carlton
Howard Emmett
M Sadler
Cowley
Crawford
Mel Hutchinson

Presenting Officers

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NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE

21 MAY 2024

SCHOOL TERM DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This paper details proposals for the school term dates for the academic year 2025-2026.
- 1.2 This paper is to highlight the responses to the consultation and recommend the school term dates calendar for 2025-2026

2.0 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 (LAs) to try to achieve a common approach when determining term dates. North Yorkshire Council is part of the group of LAs 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 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.
- 2.6 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 the draft calendar is at Appendix 1.

2.7 The consultation to determine a school calendar for 2025/2026 was launched on 22 March and closed on 1 May 2024. All maintained schools and academies, teachers' associations, trade unions and other local authorities across Yorkshire and the North East were consulted.

2.8 The authority received 24 responses from the online survey. These were from 18 primary schools, 3 primary Federation and 3 secondary schools.

3.0 ISSUES

3.1 Of the online respondents all of them made at least one comment. There were 21 comments regarding Professional Development (PD) Days. Four agreed to the term dates. There were two comments that the term dates did not always match some neighbouring local authorities and one proposing a shorter summer break and two proposing a longer October half term. Appendix 2 records all responses received.

3.2 It is the view of the officers that none of the issues raised as part of the consultation greatly affect the proposed term dates for 2025-26. However, in recognition of the comments received in relation to the PD day in December 2024 (originally proposed for 19 December 2025) this has been moved to the suggested alternative date of 5 January 2026.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 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.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 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.

6.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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, the term dates have not changed except that one set PD has been moved from 19 December to 5 January 2026. The draft calendar is broadly in line with proposals from those neighbouring LAs in which the majority of cross border pupils reside

8.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 The following recommendation are being made for consideration and approval:

To approve the term and holiday dates for community, voluntary controlled, community special schools and maintained nursery schools for 2025/2026 as set out in the calendar identified at Appendix 1.

STUART CARLTON
Corporate Director – CYPS

Report prepared by Lisa Herdman, Lead for Admissions

SCHOOL TERM DATES – STANDARD OPTION 2025 - 2026 ACADEMIC YEAR



AUTUMN TERM 2025																							
	August					September					October				November				December				
Monday	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	1	8	15	22	29	
Tuesday	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30	
Wednesday	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31	
Thursday	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25	31	
Friday	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26	31
Saturday	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27	31
Sunday	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28	31

SPRING TERM 2026																						
	January					February				March					April							
Monday	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	1	8	15	22	29
Tuesday	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	2	9	16	23	30
Wednesday	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	4	11	18	25	8	15	22	29	3	10	17	24	31	
Thursday	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	5	12	19	26	9	16	23	30	4	11	18	25	31
Friday	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	6	13	20	27	10	17	24	31	5	12	19	26	31
Saturday	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	6	13	20	27	31
Sunday	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	7	14	21	28	31

Autumn	40	75	195
	35		
Spring	30	55	
	25		
Summer	29	65	
	36		
School Holiday			1
Bank Holiday			1
PD Days			3

SUMMER TERM 2026																									
	May					June				July															
Monday	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27	1	8	15	22	29	2	9	16	23	30		
Tuesday	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28	3	10	17	24	31	3	10	17	24	31		
Wednesday	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	4	11	18	25	4	11	18	25	4	11	18	25	4	11	18	25	
Thursday	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	5	12	19	26	5	12	19	26	5	12	19	26	5	12	19	26	
Friday	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	6	13	20	27	6	13	20	27	6	13	20	27	6	13	20	27
Saturday	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	7	14	21	28	7	14	21	28	7	14	21	28	7	14	21	28
Sunday	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	8	15	22	29	8	15	22	29	8	15	22	29	8	15	22	29

These term dates are for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools in North Yorkshire Council
Three recommended professional development (PD) days for teaching staff have identified
Schools can identify 2 PD days when the school will be closed to pupils.

DRAFT

Response	Comment Term dates 2025-2026
1	Term dates look good to me
2	We would not go ahead with having an inset day/PD on the 19th December. Everyone is too tired for this to be meaningful and children would be breaking up too early before Christmas. We would move ours to January so we can deliver training for the Spring term ahead.
3	I would ask as a headteacher in North Yorkshire that you strongly consider aligning the dates with bordering counties. I live in County Durham but work in North Yorkshire meaning that I have on many occasions in the last 2 years had different holidays to my children who attend a school in County Durham. My husband teaches in County Durham again meaning our family time is greatly affected. This has only become a problem in the past two years where the holidays have changed, before then our holidays were in sync. I am strongly considering leaving my position to find a headship closer to home so that I can have the holidays with my children. I am also aware of lots of teachers who happen to work cross county, causing huge childcare problems during the holidays. I ask that you please consult with Durham County Council to ensure that the holidays are the same where possible.
4	Please can we not have a PD day on the 19th December - no effective CPD will be done at the very end of a manic term leading up to Christmas and it means that all the Christmas activities then have to be squeezed into a shorter week - please can you put it on the first day back after Christmas when everyone is fresh.
5	Thank you for not creating a timetable which, in practice, forces us to use one of our 2 'flexible training days' at the end of the summer term. These type of training days are a nightmare. No-one wants to be there as everyone is exhausted so most schools choose to twilight the day, rather than run it as a training day. This creates more and more problems with trying to make things fair for part-time staff, generating timeslots when everyone can make it etc. etc. etc. For us, this is the best proposed timetable we've seen for a number of years. Thank you. Mike White
6	The training day on 19th December would be preferable on Monday 5th January.
7	I think the proposed training day on Friday 19th December 2025 should be moved to the 5th January 2026
8	The proposed dates look fine. Is there any scope for looking at a longer October half term holiday and taking some off the summer?
9	No major issues with these dates, other than to point out that schools do not have to use the three days the LA identifies for PD days, therefore it is highly unlikely that we would use 19th December for a training day. The last day of term is not a sensible day to have a training day, unless the school is choosing to disaggregate it and do training at another time. We would be more likely to opt for 5th January as a training day.
10	The PD Day on the 19th December is not an effective use of time. It would be much better to have it on January 5th.
11	Why don't schools work til Friday 24th July and have a two week half term in October or in May/June? Or finish on 24th July adding two/three days onto the end of October / May. School's do not have to start back on a Monday or finish on a Friday anymore! This would help to reduce the burnout during the school year and allow families in North Yorkshire to access the opportunity for cheaper holidays during October or May. A bit of thinking outside the normal victorian holiday system please!
12	I am happy with the proposed dates. Thank you.
13	It would be preferable to put the Dec PD to the beginning of January. This means that staff are feeling refreshed for the start of the term and will mean that valuable training time can be maximised. Having the training at the start of the term has more impact, as staff go into the term feeling energised and ready to launch anything implemented in training. It is important to note that both the Autumn and Summer Term are long terms. In order to help staff workload / burnout it may be good to consider working up to the 24th July and then providing a two week holiday during the May Spring bank or October half term period. This would provide an opportunity for families across the County to access cheaper holidays and may serve to reduce the quantity of holidays in term time. This would support staff workload (especially at May half term when staff have reports to write) and also serve to improve attendance. This rationale could be sent to parents as a proactive strategy to improve school attendance across the district. It may be worth considering some alternatives to facilitate this.

14	Most schools finish on a half day (1:30pm) in December so we would lose the benefit of the 19th and would rather have it on January 5th.
15	We are on the border on Lancashire and West Yorkshire, it would hugely help if the dates aligned. It has a huge impact on teacher recruitment and childcare arrangements for parents, which then has a negative impact on attendance.
16	Training days at the end of terms are not useful. Staff are tired and staff absence is usually higher. Training days at the start of terms when people are fresh are my preferred option and are a much more productive use of time. I think a training day at the end of a very long Autumn term (Dec 19th) is a particularly bad idea.
17	The training day prior to Christmas break is not a good time for the best school improvement. People are tired after a long autumn term and delivering important training would not be received as well as it should at this time. Better time is in January when everyone is ready for the next term and fresh from a break.
18	We would like to set our additional 2 PD days as: Monday 23rd April 2026 and Monday 1st June 2026. The only other comment we have is that the proposed PD day on Friday 19th December 2025 would not necessarily be our preferred option. By the end of the long Autumn term staff would not be in the best place to have a full day of training at that stage. We feel this would be better and more useful if it was on Monday 5th January 2026. Thank you.
19	Once again we disagree with the PD date you have allocated to the 19th December 2025. This is of no value as a training day at the end of 2 long terms and we would request that the local authority continues to define a training day in each term for the 3 days that are compulsory and therefore the 19th December 2025 should be on the 5th January 2026 (Spring term) where staff are refreshed and able to absorb a full day of training.
20	The structure gives a fairly even length of half terms which is helpful. Whilst including a Friday training day to be of benefit to part time teachers, Friday 19th December does not seem particularly well placed for staff being at their most productive. Friday 24th October would be preferable.
21	I am happy with the holiday dates proposed, so too with the training days. However, I would urge you to make sure they are aligned with Darlington/County Durham. This has caused us real issues this year due to parents taking their children out of school as holiday dates of local schools over the border do no match. It is also a problem for staff who live across the border and managing child care or even the opportunity to go away with their family. I was assured that this issue would not happen again 15 years ago when applying for a school place for my daughter yet here we are again.
22	Proposed draft calendar dates are fine.
23	Fine with us. We work as a cluster with our primary schools and shall submit the two further in due course.
24	As a school we wouldn't want the 19th December as we feel staff wouldn't want a training day on the last day of term before Christmas when they have had a 7 week term. We think a Friday late November would be better in the middle of the term. Either then or another day added to the beginning of the term so we have 2 days training on the 1-2nd September 2025 to ensure we can cover first aid and safeguarding training.

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