
Meeting of Executive Members and Children's Services Advisory Panel

12 June 2007

Report of the Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services

School Term Dates and Holidays 2008/2009

Summary

- 1 This report recommends term dates and holidays for the school year 2008/2009.

Background

- 2 For community and voluntary controlled schools, responsibility for setting the school term and holidays dates rests with the local authority. Voluntary Aided schools have the discretion to set their own term dates, but do not usually depart significantly from the pattern established for other schools in the authority.
- 3 It is a statutory requirement that schools are open for 190 days in the year. Teachers are required to work for a further 5 professional development days. Under current arrangements, the term dates and holidays decided by the LA allow for the full 195 days. Individual schools are free to decide on the timing of the 5 Professional Development Days which are usually added to the beginning and end of terms.
- 4 Education (Leeds) has been co-ordinating efforts by the local authorities in the sub region to agree a common pattern of dates for 2008-09 and 2009-2010 and, as far as possible, to align this with the proposals made by the LGA to establish a standard school year. For 2008 – 09, this is proving to be relatively straightforward, and the term and holiday dates proposed by North Yorkshire and East Riding are attached at Annex A. The term and holiday dates proposed for schools in York are attached as Annex B.

Consultation

- 5 The authority is required to consult with the professional associations and chooses to discuss the term and holiday dates with JCG. Feedback will be provided at the meeting.

Options

- 6 The option is available of setting any term and holiday dates within the statutory requirement for the number of days that schools are required to be open.

Corporate Priorities

- 7 It is a statutory duty of the authority to set term and holiday dates.

Implications

Financial

- 8 There are no implications.

Human Resources (HR)

- 9 There are no implications.

Equalities

- 10 There are no implications

Legal

- 11 Under s.21 of the Education (No.2) Act 1986, as amended by s.115 of The Education Reform Act 1988, it is the duty (stated in the school's articles of government) of the LEA, in the case of a county or controlled school, or governing body of an aided or special agreement school, to determine the dates when schools terms and holidays are to begin and end.

Crime and Disorder

- 12 There are no implications

Information Technology (IT)

- 13 There are no implications

Property

- 14 There are no implications

Other

- 15 There are no implications

Risk Management

- 16 The responsibility to set term and holiday dates does not represent a major risk for the authority.

Recommendation

- 17 The Executive Member is recommended to approve the pattern of school terms and holidays for 2008/09 proposed in Annex B.

Reason: To ensure that dates for school terms and holidays are set according to statutory requirements.

Contact Details

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Report Approved

Date 14 May 2007

Patrick Scott

Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services

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Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Annex A: School term and holiday dates for neighbouring authorities

Annex B: CYC school term and holiday dates 2008/09: Proposed