

School Term Dates and Holidays 2012/2013

Summary

1. This report:
 - Requests that term dates and holidays for the school year, 2012/2013 be formally approved.
 - reports on action taken by the LA to align the dates with those of neighbouring authorities

Background

2. The responsibility for setting the school term and holidays dates rests with the local authority for all community and voluntary controlled schools. Voluntary Aided schools and Academies 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. Work continues to ensure greater consistency over term dates and the Regional Group of Local Authorities have met in attempt to ensure some consistency across the northern region.

Consultation

5. The Authority is required to consult with the professional associations and has also chosen to discuss the term and holiday dates with all schools.
6. During the Autumn Term 2010, the LA undertook consultations with both primary and secondary headteachers and the Joint Consultative Group on options for school terms and holidays in 2012/13 based on the regional discussions. All those consulted were happy with the proposed dates set out in Annex 1.

7. Officers from the regional Local Authorities have continued to meet on a regular basis to as far as possible agree consistent term dates. City of York proposed dates are the same as those proposed dates for both North Yorkshire and East Riding of Yorkshire for 2012/13, although these are yet to be formally agreed.

Analysis

8. The setting of term dates is a process which generates considerable interest and not always consistent views. The principles established on a regional basis are worthy but not always easy to apply in practice. All recognise the potential benefits and applaud the efforts to seek a more consistent regional picture as well as attempts to plan dates on a more than single year basis.

Corporate Priorities

9. It is a statutory duty of the authority to set term and holiday dates. One key aspect of setting dates must be to support the teaching and learning experience and therefore decisions in this paper do relate to the corporate priorities of:
 - improving the life chances of the most disadvantaged and disaffected children, young people and their families in the city
 - Increase people's skills and knowledge to improve future employment prospects

Implications

10. There are no Financial, HR, Equality, Crime and Disorder Property or IT implications of this paper.

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 LA, 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.

Risk Management

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

Recommendation

The Executive Member is recommended to approve the pattern of school terms and holidays for 2012/13 as proposed in Annex 1

Reason: To provide clarity for parents, schools and pupils on term dates in City of York.

Contact Details

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Report Approved

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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

Annex

Annex 1 – Proposed term dates for 2012/13