

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

15 JUNE 2023

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES – 2024/2025

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is, following consultation, to present the proposed calendars of school term and holiday dates for 2024/2025 academic year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the school term and holiday dates 2024/2025 shown at **Appendix 1** to this report, be agreed.

DETAIL

1. School employers are required to set the term dates of their school year. Employers are:
 - the Local Authority in maintained, voluntary controlled and maintained special schools
 - the Governing Body in foundation and voluntary aided schools;
 - Multi Academy Trusts, academies and free schools.
2. In line with statutory requirements and the protocol agreed in 2008, consideration has been given to compile a set of term and holiday dates for schools in the Borough.
3. Officers consulted with colleagues from all neighbouring authorities to endeavour to reach consensus on a proposed model for the academic year.
4. Attached as **Appendix 1** are the proposed dates for 2024/2025.
5. As part of the consultation process this document were duly circulated to schools/academies and all other relevant parties, including Diocesan Authorities and Trade Unions/Teaching Associations. There were no comments received.
6. To date the neighbouring authorities that have published their dates have endorsed the proposed matrix for 2024/2025. This level of agreement between authorities will relieve many of the cross-boundary issues that some families have suffered in the past.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7. None

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8. The recommendations comply with the requirements of the Education (School Day and School Year) (England) Regulations 1999 and the Education Act 2002 (Part 3, Chapter 1, Para 32)

RISK ASSESSMENT

9. The School Term and Holiday Dates 2024/2025 are categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

COUNCIL PLAN IMPLICATIONS

10. The report impacts on the Council Plan priority for 'Our people – support achievement for all pupils'.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

11. This report has been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment and has been judged to have a negative impact. This has been judged necessary because the pattern of school holidays around the christian festivals of Christmas and Easter and a long summer break between years is a national pattern that cannot be varied significantly locally or regionally. Exams and national tests together with School Teachers Pay and Conditions dictate the broad framework leaving only changes at the margins determined locally. Remedial actions have been identified and included in the EIA action plan.

CORPORATE PARENTING

12. As outlined in paragraph 6, the joint agreement of the 2024/2025 matrices will ensure that, where children, families and carers live in one Borough, but the children attend school in another, there is a consistency across the area.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

13. All schools and academies, Teacher Associations and Trade Unions, Neighbouring Local Authorities and Diocesan Authorities.
14. The following groups/representatives were included in the consultation process:
 1. 4 Diocesan Authorities – comprising of Durham & Newcastle, Hexham & Newcastle, Middlesbrough and York
 2. Neighbouring Local Authorities
 3. Trade Union Representatives from ASCL, GMB, Musician Union, NAHT, NASUWT, NEU, Unison, UNITE and Voice
 4. Headteachers/Principals of Secondary, Primary, Special and Free Schools and Academies in Stockton

RESPONSES RECEIVED

Diocesan Authorities

No responses received

Neighbouring Local Authorities

Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland LAs have published a calendar for 2024/25 which is the same as the proposed calendar for Stockton. Comments from all authorities have been positive.

Trade Union Representatives

No responses received.

Secondary Schools/Academies

No Comments Received

Primary Schools/Academies

No Comments Received

Name of Contact Officer: Lucy Emmerson
Post Title: Manager, School and Governor Support Service
Telephone No: 01642 526419
Email Address: lucy.emmerson@stockton.gov.uk

Background Papers

None

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Not applicable

Property

There are no implications for council property