

CABINET MEMBER FOR Children, Education and Skills – Cllr Laura Mayes

SERVICE AREA Education and Skills

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REFERENCE: **CES-03-23**

SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAYS 2024/25

1. Purpose of Report

- a. The purpose of this report is to ask the Cabinet Member to agree the school term and holiday dates for 2024/25 for Wiltshire's Community, Voluntary Controlled and Community Special Schools.

2. Relevance to the Council's Business Plan - Not applicable

3. Main Considerations for the Council

- a. To fulfil our statutory duties under Section 32 of the Education Act 2002, the local authority is responsible for determining the term dates for all community, voluntary controlled or community special schools in Wiltshire.

4. Background

A protocol for the setting of school term and holiday dates has been endorsed by the Teachers Joint Consultative Committee.

The South-West Officers Group made up of officers from neighbouring Local Authorities, co-ordinate several times a year to facilitate consultation to ensure that we propose similar, if not the same, dates.

Each school has a statutory responsibility to operate 380 sessions, the equivalent of 190 days, direct teaching to children each year. Schools in Wiltshire have indicated a strong preference for a 195-day calendar which permits 5 staff development days to be set within term time dates. The Headteacher and Governors of each individual school determine when these days are taken.

The 2 term date options sent out for consultation to Schools and Governors, and a consultation form placed on the Councils website for parents and the public to comment. In total there were 538 (77%) consultation responses received supporting Option 1, compared to 157 (23%) for Option 2.

The final decision is made under the delegated authority of the Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills, in consultation with the Teachers' Joint Consultative Committee. The responses to the consultation are summarised in Appendix B. At their meeting on 9 March 2023, the Teachers Joint Consultative Committee considered the consultation responses and confirmed their support for Option 1.

5. Overview & Scrutiny Engagement - Not applicable

6. Safeguarding Implications

There are no safeguarding implications involved in this decision.

7. Public Health Implications

There are no public health implications associated with this decision.

8. Procurement Implications

There are no procurement implications involved in this decision.

9. Equalities Impact of the Proposal

There are no adverse equalities implications associated with this decision.

10. Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

There are no impacts on the environment and climate associated with this decision.

11. Risk Assessment

If the decision is not taken, then there is a risk that the Local Authority fails to comply with statutory obligations.

12. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this decision.

13. Legal Implications

Consideration has been given to whether there are any ethical or governance issues or any Human Rights implications, and none have been identified.

14. Options Considered

Option 1: Shows a proposed calendar with a seven-day October break, with term 6 ending on Thursday 24 July.

Option 2: Shows a proposed calendar with a five-day break in October, with term 6 ending on Tuesday 22 July.

15. Reason for Proposal

As dictated by Section 32 of the Education Act 2002, the local authority is responsible for determining the term dates for all community, voluntary controlled or community special schools in Wiltshire.

16. Proposal

To approve the 195 day calendar for School Term & Holiday Dates for 2024/25 as shown in Option 1 in Appendix A.