

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Cllr Michael Evans, Cabinet Member for Children's Services	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	On or after 6th April 2016	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE: E 2845
TITLE:	School Term and Holiday Dates 2017-18 Academic Year	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Appendix A School Term and Holiday Dates 2017-18 Academic Year		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 To consider the school term and holiday dates for the 2017-18 Academic Year

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note that Academies, Foundation, Free Schools and Voluntary Aided Schools have the power to determine their own term and holiday dates.
- 2.2 To note that the Government intention to give the same power to Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools under the 2015 Deregulation Bill will not be commenced
- 2.3 In order to maximise consistency of dates for the benefit of children and their parents, to recommend to all schools the Council's preferred calendar of School Term and Holiday dates for the academic year 2017-18 based on a 195 day calendar, as set out in Appendix A.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 3.1 The standard academic year is based on 195 school days. Schools are open for 190 days and 5 days are used for in-service training. The Home to School transport budget is based on the financial year and is adjusted annually depending on the number of days which schools are open in the financial year. There will normally be 190 school days when we provide transport. However depending on when the Easter Holiday falls this can vary slightly from year to year. If the Easter holiday means the number of days increase in one year this is usually compensated by a fall in the following year and vice versa.
- 3.2 If as a result of a school adopting their own dates there is an increase in Home to School Transport costs the Council will recover the additional cost from the school.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

- 4.1 The Education [Schools and Further Education] Regulations indicate that in each academic year a school shall be open to receive pupils for not less than 380 sessions or 190 days. These proposed dates satisfy those requirements.
- 4.2 To try and achieve consistency in dates across all schools the Local Authority will recommend a set of dates for approval by individual Governing Bodies.

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 Before the 2014-15 Academic year the calendar was based on a 195 day model with 5 in-service days being taken within these dates.
- 5.2 For the 2014-15 and 2015-16 Academic Year the Cabinet agreed to set a calendar based on a 190 day model with 5 in-service days being taken outside of these dates.
- 5.3 This decision was not been universally popular with schools and as a result for 2016-17 the Local authority agreed a 195 day model.

6 RATIONALE

- 6.1 The dates recommended in this report should be adopted by the majority of schools and similar to those adopted by neighbouring authorities.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 None

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Consultation took place with all schools over a 2 month period. A total of 3 schools responded to the consultation. Two were in favour of the 195 day model and one school responded to say they were in agreement but would prefer a slightly later start to the Christmas Holiday period.
- 8.2 Consultation has taken place with neighbouring authorities who are consulting on similar dates to those shown in the 195 day model.
- 8.3 The proposed dates were also placed on the consultations page of the Council website.
- 8.4 A copy of this report has been sent to the Recognised Teacher Professional Associations for comment.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

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Background papers	<i>List here any background papers not included with this report, and where/how they are available for inspection.</i>
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