

NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL DECISION

**DECISION OF: THE DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES
WITH ADVICE FROM: SERVICE LEADER - STRATEGIC PLANNING
AND GOVERNANCE
IN CONSULTATION WITH:
EDUCATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS AND THE COMMUNITY**



DIRECTORATE: PEOPLE & COMMUNITIES

DECISION NO: PC84 2018/19 SCHEME

SUBJECT: SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2020 - 2021

KEY DECISION: YES

BACKGROUND:

School employers are required to set the term dates of their schools. The Local Authority is the employer for staff at community, voluntary controlled and community special schools and maintained nursery schools. Governing bodies are the employers in foundation/trust and voluntary aided schools. Academy Trusts/Multi-Academy Trusts are the employers of staff in academies and free schools.

As at 1st February 2019, the Local Authority has 20 schools (including special schools) that it has a statutory duty to set term dates for.

Although some school employers may want to set their own term dates, most still look to the Local Authority to suggest dates to provide a basis for any school level decisions.

DECISION:

That the following term dates are agreed by the People and Communities Directorate for community, voluntary controlled and community special schools in the school year 2020 – 2021:

Term	Day	From	Day	To	No.Days
1	Tue	1st September 2020	Fri	23rd October 2020	39
2	Mon	2nd November 2020	Fri	18th December 2020	35
3	Mon	4th January 2021	Fri	12th February 2021	30
4	Mon	22nd February 2021	Thu	1st April 2021	29
5	Mon	19th April 2021	Fri	28th May 2021	29
6	Mon	7th June 2021	Wed	21st July 2021	33
				Total	195

REASONS:

North Somerset Council is the employer of staff at local community, voluntary controlled and community special schools and therefore has a duty to set term dates for these schools.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

- The Calendar for 2020-2021 has been determined in accordance with the standing principles (wherever possible) of:
 - starting the school year early in September;
 - equalised teaching and learning blocks where possible and without detriment to public holidays where appropriate (i.e. Christmas and Easter)
 - allowing a summer holiday of at least six weeks;
 - identifying and agreeing annually designated periods of holiday, including the summer holiday, where head teachers are recommended not to arrange teacher days;

Legally there must be 195 days in the school year (190 days plus 5 five non-educational / In Service Training days of which the dates are determined by individual schools and used for curriculum planning/training).

The objective is to provide a model that:

- allows for local flexibility in determining "non-teaching work days", especially at the beginnings and ends to school terms, so as not to interrupt the integrity of smoother curriculum delivery, learning and assessment,
- ensures that, as far as possible, teachers and parents with children at school in neighbouring authorities are not inconvenienced by differing term and holiday dates.

North Somerset Council consulted with colleagues in Bristol, Somerset, Bath and North East Somerset, South Gloucester and other Local Authorities in the South West to consider possible options for the 2020-2021 term dates based on a 195-day model. These initial discussions formed the basis of the calendar that has been worked around how bank holidays fall and applies the standing principles where possible. This e collective timetable was proposed and consulted on by North Somerset and neighbouring Local Authorities to ensure parity across the region where possible.

Whilst every effort was made to try to minimise the longer terms 1 and 2, in aiming to prevent part-week attendance (as absence rates are often higher) and maintain holiday periods at popular times due to public holidays and other popular events, longer terms in the four months at the end of the calendar year are inevitable.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications when setting term and holiday dates.

Costs

None.

Funding

None.

LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS

School term and holiday dates are set in accordance with the Education Act 2002 - section 32, the Education Act 1996 – section 551(1), the Education (School Day and School Year) (England) Regulations 1999 and the Changing of School Session Times (England) (Revocation) Regulations 2011.

CONSULTATION

A consultation with North Somerset stakeholders via the Council's on-line E-consult facility was undertaken between 7 January and 17 February 2019. The consultation was highlighted in the local Council publications of Noticeboard and the Knowledge in January 2019. Notification of the consultation was listed in Members Briefing and Diocesan bodies and the relevant profession body unions and other key stakeholders were also contacted. The consultation was also open to the public. Appendix 1 shows the terms dates included in the consultation.

There are 78 schools in North Somerset, serving approximately 31,000 students. This consultation covers the attendance of 20 schools where the Local Authority remains the employer of staff. The governing bodies and trust boards of the remaining 58 schools and academies can set their own term dates.

There were 16 responses registered on E-consult. Responses could cover both the schools that the Local Authority serves and those that set their own term dates. Most of the comments were either supportive of the proposed dates or did not have any comment to make. Of the remainder, the majority referred to a reduction in the length of term one (currently 8 weeks), lengthening the autumn break and shortening the summer break. A list of all responses is attached in appendix 2.

Whilst it is acknowledged the length of term one is long, changing this would result in disparity in term dates across the remaining school year with our neighbouring councils. The need for parity with our neighbouring authorities across the South West has taken precedence.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Council has a legal duty to set term dates for its community, voluntary controlled and community special schools. To not set dates could leave the Council subject to legal challenge.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

An Equality Impact Assessment has not been undertaken on this occasion.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

If/when all North Somerset schools have become academies, the Local Authority will no longer have a statutory duty to set terms dates. The responsibility will be with trusts and governing bodies as the employer of their staff.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Please see link to the consultation on E-consult
http://consult.n-somerset.gov.uk/consult.ti/Schooltermdates2020_2021/consultationHome

SIGNATORIES:

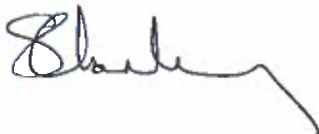
DECISION MAKER(S):

Signed: 

Title: Director, People and Communities

Date: 19.3.19

WITH ADVICE FROM:



Signed:

Title: Service Leader – Strategic Planning and Governance

Date: 19.3.19

Footnote: Details of changes made and agreed by the decision taker since publication of the proposed (pre-signed) decision notice, if applicable:

Appendix 1

North Somerset Council Proposed School Term Dates 2020/2021

	August/September				
Monday	31	7	14	21	28
Tuesday	1	8	15	22	29
Wednesday	2	9	16	23	30
Thursday	3	10	17	24	
Friday	4	11	18	25	
Saturday	5	12	19	26	
Sunday	6	13	20	27	

	October				
	5	12	19	26	
	6	13	20	27	
	7	14	21	28	
	1	8	15	22	29
	2	9	16	23	30
	3	10	17	24	31
	4	11	18	25	

	November				
	2	9	16	23	30
	3	10	17	24	
	4	11	18	25	
	5	12	19	26	
	6	13	20	27	
	7	14	21	28	
1	8	15	22	29	

	December				
Monday		7	14	21	28
Tuesday	1	8	15	22	29
Wednesday	2	9	16	23	30
Thursday	3	10	17	24	31
Friday	4	11	18	25	
Saturday	5	12	19	26	
Sunday	6	13	20	27	

	January				
	4	11	18	25	
	5	12	19	26	
	6	13	20	27	
	7	14	21	28	
1	8	15	22	29	
2	9	16	23	30	
3	10	17	24	31	

	February				
	1	8	15	22	
	2	9	16	23	
	3	10	17	24	
	4	11	18	25	
	5	12	19	26	
	6	13	20	27	
	7	14	21	28	

	March					
Monday		1	8	15	22	29
Tuesday		2	9	16	23	30
Wednesday		3	10	17	24	31
Thursday		4	11	18	25	
Friday		5	12	19	26	
Saturday		6	13	20	27	
Sunday		7	14	21	28	

	April				
	5	12	19	26	
	6	13	20	27	
	7	14	21	28	
	1	8	15	22	29
	2	9	16	23	30
	3	10	17	24	
	4	11	18	25	

	May				
	3	10	17	24	31
	4	11	18	25	
	5	12	19	26	
	6	13	20	27	
	7	14	21	28	
1	8	15	22	29	
2	9	16	23	30	

	June					
Monday		7	14	21	28	
Tuesday		1	8	15	22	29
Wednesday		2	9	16	23	30
Thursday		3	10	17	24	
Friday		4	11	18	25	
Saturday		5	12	19	26	
Sunday		6	13	20	27	

	July				
	5	12	19	26	
	6	13	20	27	
	7	14	21	28	
	1	8	15	22	29
	2	9	16	23	30
	3	10	17	24	31
	4	11	18	25	

	August				
	2	9	16	23	30
	3	10	17	24	31
	4	11	18	25	
	5	12	19	26	
	6	13	20	27	
	7	14	21	28	
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School Day
School Holiday
Bank Holiday

Appendix 2 Comments Received

Question: Do you have any comments to make regarding the proposed dates for 2020/2021?	
Response Date	User's Response:
07 Jan 2019	We would advocate considering taking days from the summer holiday and adding to the October half-term break - for 2020/21 this could mean ending term 1 on Wed Oct 21 and ending term 6 on Friday July 23. Otherwise this looks a very sensible plan
07 Jan 2019	No - the dates look fine
07 Jan 2019	Sharing dates with neighbouring local authorities is welcome. An active attempt to co-ordinate holiday dates even more so.
09 Jan 2019	I would recommend the Christmas dates are changed with schools breaking up on the 22nd Dec and returning on the 6th Jan. Parents do not like too much time off before Christmas, kids like the time after Christmas
09 Jan 2019	The first two terms (September 2020-December 2020) are very long. Our 5yo really struggled with their first two terms in reception and it was clear we weren't the only family whose child found the six weeks from October to christmas very long. I know some schools in the area opt to use their inservice days all in one block and tag it on to the first half term holiday (making it effectively a two week break) and this seems to work really well. Both from student and family points of view.
11 Jan 2019	It all looks very sensibly spaced and thought out.
14 Jan 2019	no
14 Jan 2019	The Priory Learning Trust agrees with these term dates and is likely to follow these dates for its own term dates.
14 Jan 2019	No thank you.
14 Jan 2019	No
14 Jan 2019	Seems a sensible division of weeks and dates
16 Jan 2019	no
18 Jan 2019	Could we have the same October half term as in 2018 please? It was different to most local authorities and made childcare / holiday booking a lot easier
25 Jan 2019	Nearly an 8 week term 1 is not preferable. Better than having it in term 2 though.
31 Jan 2019	No
14 Feb 2019	1

