

NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL DECISION

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



DIRECTORATE: PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

DECISION NO: PC101 (2019/20 Scheme)

SUBJECT: SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2021 - 2022

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 2020, the Local Authority has 12 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 2021 – 2022:

Term dates Summary			Days
Term 1	02 September 2021	- 22 October 2021	37
Term 2	01 November 2021	- 17 December 2021	35
Term 3	04 January 2022	- 18 February 2022	34
Term 4	28 February 2022	- 08 April 2022	30
Term 5	25 April 2022	- 27 May 2022	24
Term 6	06 June 2022	- 22 July 2022	35
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 2021-2022 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 2021-2022 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 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, 2 and 6, 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 and the school year are unavoidable.

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 6 January and 16 February 2020. Details of the consultation were published in the Council publications of Noticeboard and the Knowledge in January 2020. Notification of the consultation was listed in Members Briefing. Diocesan bodies, 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 at 12 maintained schools where the Local Authority remains the employer of staff and sets the school term dates. The governing bodies and trust boards of the remaining 66 schools and academies can set their own term dates.

There were 7 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 when inset days are set, and having children in more than one school with different holidays, this is not within the control of the Local Authority. One additional comment referred to the length of terms 5 and 6 and suggested moving the half term break, however, this break follows the Spring Bank Holiday.

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 https://n-somerset.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/Schooltermdates2021_2022/consultationHome

SIGNATORIES:

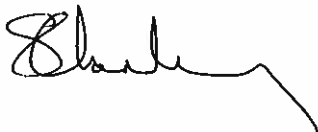
DECISION MAKER(S):

Signed: 

Title: Director of People and Communities

Date: 6.3.20

WITH ADVICE FROM:



Signed:

Title: Service Leader, Strategic Planning and Governance

Date: 5.3.20

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

Appendix 1

September 2021					October 2021					November 2021								
M		6	13	20	27	M		4	11	18	25	M	1	8	15	22	29	
Tu		7	14	21	28	Tu		5	12	19	26	Tu	2	9	16	23	30	
W	1	8	15	22	29	W		6	13	20	27	W	3	10	17	24		
Th	2	9	16	23	30	Th		7	14	21	28	Th	4	11	18	25		
F	3	10	17	24		F	1	8	15	22	29	F	5	12	19	26		
Sa	4	11	18	25		Sa	2	9	16	23	30	Sa	6	13	20	27		
Su	5	12	19	26		Su	3	10	17	24	31	Su	7	14	21	28		
December 2021					January 2022					February 2022								
M		6	13	20	27	M		3	10	17	24	31	M		7	14	21	28
Tu		7	14	21	28	Tu		4	11	18	25		Tu	1	8	15	22	
W	1	8	15	22	29	W		5	12	19	26		W	2	9	16	23	
Th	2	9	16	23	30	Th		6	13	20	27		Th	3	10	17	24	
F	3	10	17	24	31	F		7	14	21	28		F	4	11	18	25	
Sa	4	11	18	25		Sa	1	8	15	22	29		Sa	5	12	19	26	
Su	5	12	19	26		Su	2	9	16	23	30		Su	6	13	20	27	
March 2022					April 2022					May 2022								
M		7	14	21	28	M		4	11	18	25	M		2	9	16	23	30
Tu	1	8	15	22	29	Tu		5	12	19	26	Tu		3	10	17	24	31
W	2	9	16	23	30	W		6	13	20	27	W		4	11	18	25	
Th	3	10	17	24	31	Th		7	14	21	28	Th		5	12	19	26	
F	4	11	18	25		F	1	8	15	22	29	F		6	13	20	27	
Sa	5	12	19	26		Sa	2	9	16	23	30	Sa		7	14	21	28	
Su	6	13	20	27		Su	3	10	17	24		Su	1	8	15	22	29	
June 2022					July 2022					August 2022								
M		6	13	20	27	M		4	11	18	25	M	1	8	15	22	29	
Tu		7	14	21	28	Tu		5	12	19	26	Tu	2	9	16	23	30	
W	1	8	15	22	29	W		6	13	20	27	W	3	10	17	24	31	
Th	2	9	16	23	30	Th		7	14	21	28	Th	4	11	18	25		
F	3	10	17	24		F	1	8	15	22	29	F	5	12	19	26		
Sa	4	11	18	25		Sa	2	9	16	23	30	Sa	6	13	20	27		
Su	5	12	19	26		Su	3	10	17	24	31	Su	7	14	21	28		

Key:  School Day  School Holiday  Bank Holiday	Term dates Summary			Days
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Bank and public holidays 2021/2022			
Christmas Day Holiday	27 December 2021	Easter Monday	18 April 2022
Boxing Day Holiday	28 December 2021	May Day Holiday	02 May 2022
New Year's Day Holiday	03 January 2022	Spring Bank Holiday	30 May 2022
Good Friday	15 April 2022	Summer Bank Holiday	29 August 2022

Appendix 2 Comments Received

Response Date	User's Response:
13 Jan 2020	It would be really helpful if inset days fall on the same day for Primary and Secondary schools in the area, as some families have children in both so it helps regarding child care for families where both parents work.
16 Jan 2020	Isn't the half term in February usually sooner? It seems good though as the terms are more evenly spread out. Whether the individual schools adopt this though remains to be seen as they all have different inset days?
06 Jan 2020	If a parent has more than 1 child and they are at different schools it is very inconvenient if they do not have the same holidays.
07 Jan 2020	All looks fine
06 Jan 2020	No
07 Jan 2020	No
30 Jan 2020	I think term 5 should be lengthened by four or five days and term 6 shortened by four or five days. This would make the half term break 6 June 10m June. Otherwise the final term is quite a long one compared to term 5