
SCHOOL TERM DATES 2018/19 AND 2019/2020

**Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Cyndi Hughes,
Children and Young People Portfolio**

**Responsible Director - Suzanne Joyner,
Director of Children and Adults Services**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider and set school term date arrangements for Darlington maintained schools for the academic years 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 and to publish these by the end of July 2017.

Summary

2. Proposals to set term dates for academic years 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 are presented for Cabinet's approval. This will assist schools, parents and the authority in their planning processes.

Recommendation

3. It is recommended Members consider and agree to the publication of the proposed school term dates for Darlington maintained schools for academic years 2018/2019 and 2019/2020.

Reason

4. The recommendation is supported as the draft dates are the ones preferred by the majority of schools and Governing Bodies following the consultation exercise which ended on 19 May 2017.

**Suzanne Joyner
Director of Children and Adults Services**

Background Papers

School Term Dates Planning – Consultation Papers for 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 made up as follows:

Appendix 1 – School Term Dates Covering Letter to Schools

Appendix 2 – School Term Dates Guidance Note

Appendix 3a – School Term Dates 2018-19

Appendix 3b – School Term Dates 2019-20

Appendix 4 – School Term Dates Response Form

Paul Richardson : Extension 6015

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no issues arising directly from this report that relate directly to crime and disorder.
Health and Well Being	There are no issues arising directly from this report that relate directly to health and wellbeing.
Carbon Impact	There are no carbon impact implications in this report
Diversity	The content of this report impacts equally across all groups.
Wards Affected	All wards equally affected.
Groups Affected	Parents, pupils, schools, neighbouring authorities equally affected.
Budget and Policy Framework	There is no change to the Budget and Policy framework
Key Decision	This is a key decision and has been included in the Forward Plan
Urgent Decision	This not an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	Contributes to: Children with a best start in life
Efficiency	This report enables all affected to make long term plans.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

5. Following the circulation of the consultation papers (**see attached background papers**) to schools and governors on this subject in Spring 2017 and consultation with officers from Local Authorities across the North East and Yorkshire regions, a preferred term date model for academic years 2018/19 and 2019/2020 was drafted and consulted with schools and Governing Bodies. The detailed term dates are at **Appendix 3a for 2018/19 and Appendix 3b for 2019/2020.**
6. The tenet of the process has been to take into account:
 - (a) The 190 day academic year envelope for pupils, which allows schools to set their own professional development days for teaching staff when pupils will not

attend.

- (b) Equalisation of term lengths as far as possible and the start and end of term weeks to be Mondays and Fridays as far as possible. Starting and ending terms on days other than Mondays and Fridays has historically had an adverse impact on pupil attendance levels.
7. Local Authorities set the term dates for maintained schools and nurseries. There are only seven schools, out of the 42 in Darlington, that are still maintained by the Local Authority. Academy and Free School funding agreements state that the setting of the duration of the school year, term and holiday dates are the responsibility of the Academy Trust. In Foundation and Voluntary Aided (VA) maintained schools, Governing Bodies are required to set term and holiday dates in conjunction with the Local Authority.
8. The majority of Academies and VA schools in Darlington have continued to follow the LA published dates despite having the freedom to set their own dates. The 2017 consultation exercise also requested that Academy schools send in their own arranged dates for 2018/19 and 2019/2020 for inclusion in any future publication of term dates if they chose not to express a preference for the model calendar presented.
9. Consultation has been undertaken with schools (including Academies and Free Schools), Governing Bodies and neighbouring authorities. These other Local Authorities have proposed approximately the same dates as those contained in **Appendix 3a for 2018/19 and Appendix 3b for 2019/2020.**
10. Nationally, the Department for Education have recommended (and Darlington Head Teachers have agreed) that the term dates for future years will be set by Governing Bodies with Local Authorities suggesting a calendar, coordinating the consultation exercise and publishing the agreed results. Therefore, details of term dates for the 2018/19 and 2019/2020 academic years will continue to be published on the Darlington Council website and elsewhere from July 2017.

Outcome of the 2017 Consultation for the 2018-19 and 2019/2020 Academic Year Term Dates

11. Officers have consulted with 42 schools in Darlington as well as with their relevant Governing Bodies. By 19 May 2017 (the closing date for the consultation) responses from Governing Bodies and Headteachers responsible for 24 schools were received as follows:-
 - (a) 23 Schools/Governing Bodies (54.76%) out of 42 schools expressed their preference for the dates in the model calendar;
 - (b) One School/Governing Body declined to select the Model calendar and will, under their own auspices as an Academy, set their own school term dates for 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 following consultation with their relevant stakeholders. The only major difference is that the school, Carmel College, proposes to break for Easter a week later in 2018/2019.

12. Responses were received from the following schools:

School Name	2018-19	2019-20
Beaumont Hill Academy	Yes	Yes
Borough Road Nursery School**	Yes	Yes
Abbey Infants' School	Yes	Yes
Abbey Junior School	Yes	Yes
Corporation Road Primary School	Yes	Yes
Firthmoor Primary School	Yes	Yes
Gurney Pease Academy	Yes	Yes
Harrowgate Hill Primary School**	Yes	Yes
Heathfield Primary School	Yes	Yes
Hurworth Primary School	Yes	Yes
Marchbank Free School	Yes	Yes
Mount Pleasant Primary School	Yes	Yes
Northwood Primary School	Yes	Yes
Reid Street Primary School	Yes	Yes
Skerne Park Academy	Yes	Yes
Springfield Academy	Yes	Yes
St John's Church of England Academy	Yes	Yes
St. George's Church of England Academy	Yes	Yes
The Rydal Academy	Yes	Yes
West Park Academy	Yes	Yes
Carmel College	No	No
Haughton Academy	Yes	Yes
Hurworth School	Yes	Yes
Longfield Academy of Sport	Yes	Yes

** LA Maintained Schools