

**CABINET**  
**6 SEPTEMBER 2022**

---

**SCHOOL TERM DATES 2024/2025**

---

**Responsible Cabinet Member -  
Councillor Jon Clarke, Children and Young People Portfolio**

**Responsible Director -  
James Stroyan, Group Director of People**

---

**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider and set school term date arrangements for Darlington maintained schools for the academic years 2024-2025 and to publish these by the end of September 2022.

**Summary**

2. Proposals to set term dates for academic years 2024-25 are presented for Cabinet's approval. This will assist schools, parents and the authority in their planning processes.

**Recommendation**

3. It is recommended that Members consider and agree to the publication of the proposed school term dates for Darlington maintained schools for academic year 2024-25.

**Reasons**

4. The recommendation is supported as the draft dates are the ones preferred by the majority of schools and Governing Bodies that responded to the consultation which ended on 1 July 2022.

**James Stroyan,  
Group Director of People**

**Background Papers**

No background papers

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no issues arising directly from this report that relate directly to crime and disorder.
Health and Wellbeing	There are no issues arising directly from this report that relate directly to health and wellbeing.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	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
Council Plan	Contributes to: Children with a best start in life
Efficiency	This report enables all affected to make long term plans.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

5. Following the circulation of the consultation papers (**Appendix**) to schools and governors on this subject on 29 April 2021, and consultation with officers from Local Authorities across the North East and Yorkshire regions, a preferred term date model for academic years 2024-25 was drafted and consulted with schools and Governing Bodies. The detailed 2024-25 term dates are at page 5 of the consultation papers. A summary of the term dates is given below:
  - (a) 2 September 2024 – 25 October 2024
  - (b) 4 November 2024 – 20 December 2024
  - (c) 6 January 2025 – 21 February 2025
  - (d) 3 March 2025 – 11 April 2025
  - (e) 28 April 2025 – 23 May 2025
  - (f) 2 June 2025 – 18 July 2025
  
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 six 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 2022 consultation exercise also requested that Academy schools send in their own arranged dates for 2024-25 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. Other Local Authorities are still consulting, some have proposed the same dates as those contained in Appendix 1 for 2024-25.
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 2024-25 academic year will continue to be published on the Darlington Council website and elsewhere from September 2022.

### **Consultation**

11. Officers have consulted with 42 schools in Darlington as well as with their relevant Governing Bodies. 25 responses from Governing Bodies and Headteachers were received as follows:-
  - (a) All schools/governing bodies that responded expressed their preference for the dates in the model calendar;
  - (b) No alternative proposals were received

## 12. Responses were received as follows:

<b>School Name</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
Beaumont Hill Academy	Yes
Polam Hall School	
Borough Road Nursery School**	Yes
George Dent Nursery School**	Yes
Abbey Infants' School	Yes
Abbey Junior School	Yes
Bishopton Redmarshall CofE Primary School	
Corporation Road Community Primary School	Yes
Firthmoor Primary School	
Gurney Pease Academy	Yes
Harrowgate Hill Primary School**	Yes
Heathfield Primary School	Yes
Heighington Church of England Primary School	
High Coniscliffe CofE Primary School	Yes
Holy Family RC Primary School	
Hurworth Primary School	Yes
Marchbank Free School	Yes
Mount Pleasant Primary School	Yes
Mowden Infants' School	Yes
Mowden Junior School	Yes
Northwood Primary School	Yes
Red Hall Primary School**	Yes
Reid Street Primary School	
Skerne Park Academy	
Springfield Academy	Yes
St Augustine's RC Primary School	
St Bede's RC Primary School	
St John's Church of England Academy	Yes
St Mary's Cockerton CofE Primary School	Yes
St Teresa's RC Primary School	
St. George's Church of England Academy	
The Rydal Academy	Yes
West Park Academy	
Whinfield Primary**	Yes
Carmel College	
Haughton Academy	Yes
Hummersknott Academy	Yes
Hurworth School	
Longfield Academy of Sport	
St Aidan's Church of England Academy	Yes
Wyvern Academy	
Rise Carr College**	

\*\* LA Maintained Schools