

**CABINET
9 JULY 2019**

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2021-22

**Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Paul Crudass,
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 2021-2022 and to publish these by the end of July 2019.

Summary

2. Proposals to set term dates for academic years 2021-22 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 year 2021-22.

Reason

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 24 May 2019.

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

Background Papers

School Term Dates Planning – Consultation Papers for 2021-2022 made up as follows:

- School Term Dates Covering Letter to Schools
- School Term Dates Guidance Note
- Appendix 1 – School Term Dates 2021-22
- Appendix 2 – 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 on 1 May 2019 and consultation with officers from Local Authorities across the North East and Yorkshire regions, a preferred term date model for academic years 2021-22 was drafted and consulted with schools and Governing Bodies. The detailed 2021-22 term dates are at **Appendix 1 to the consultation document**.
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 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 2019 consultation exercise also requested that Academy schools send in their own arranged dates for 2021-22 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 1 for 2021-22**.
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 2021-22 academic year will continue to be published on the Darlington Council website and elsewhere from July 2019.

Outcome of the Consultation for the 2021-22 Academic Year Term Dates

11. Officers have consulted with 42 schools in Darlington as well as with their relevant Governing Bodies. 32 responses from Governing Bodies and Headteachers were received as follows:-

- (a) 17 Schools/Governing Bodies (40.5%) out of 42 schools expressed their preference for the dates in the model calendar;
- (b) Additional comments have been received as follows:
 - (i) The five Darlington Education Village Academy Trust schools are proposing to start the school year on Monday 6th September 2021 and finish on Friday 22nd July 2022. The proposal in this paper is that schools start on Wednesday 1st September and finish on Thursday 21st July. This is to be confirmed once they have received notification of the proposed dates from the Middlesbrough schools in that trust.
 - (ii) The four Darlington schools in the Lingfield Trust will be opening to pupils on 6th September 2021 and will close on 22nd July 2022.
 - (iii) Polam will be setting their term dates due to the need to account for overseas students who board and the shorter school year.
 - (iv) Carmel and the schools in their trust will be submitting a later response due to the fact that there were no governors meetings held in the consultation period.
 - (v) Heighington CofE Primary will be submitting a later response due to the fact that there were no governors meetings held in the consultation period.

12. Responses were received as follows:

School Name	2021-22
Beaumont Hill Academy	Alternative start date tbc – EVAT
Polam Hall School	Alternative term dates
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	Late start – Lingfield Trust
Firthmoor Primary School	Yes
Gurney Pease Academy	Alternative start date tbc – EVAT
Harrowgate Hill Primary School**	Yes
Heathfield Primary School	Late start – Lingfield Trust
Heighington Church of England Primary School	To be confirmed
High Coniscliffe CofE Primary School	
Holy Family RC Primary School	To be confirmed – Carmel Trust
Hurworth Primary School	Late start – Lingfield Trust
Marchbank Free School	Alternative start date tbc - EVAT
Mount Pleasant Primary School	Late start – Lingfield Trust
Mowden Infants' School	
Mowden Junior School	
Northwood Primary School	Late start – Lingfield Trust
Red Hall Primary School**	
Reid Street Primary School	Yes
Skerne Park Academy	Yes
Springfield Academy	Alternative start date tbc – EVAT
St Augustine's RC Primary School	To be confirmed – Carmel Trust
St Bede's RC Primary School	To be confirmed – Carmel Trust
St John's Church of England Academy	Yes
St Mary's Cockerton Church of England Primary School	Yes
St Teresa's RC Primary School**	
St. George's Church of England Academy	Yes
The Rydal Academy	Yes
West Park Academy	Yes
Whinfield Primary**	
Carmel College	To be confirmed – Carmel Trust
Haughton Academy	Alternative start date tbc - EVAT
Hummersknott Academy	Yes
Hurworth School	Yes
Longfield Academy of Sport	Yes
St Aidan's Church of England Academy	
Wyvern Academy	Yes
Rise Carr College**	

** LA Maintained Schools