



CHILDREN & ADULT SERVICES

Town Hall, Darlington DL1 5QT
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Web site: <http://www.darlington.gov.uk>

FAO The Chair of Governors and Headteachers

ALL Schools in Darlington

Date: 1st May 2019
Please ask for: Paul Richardson
Direct line: 01325 406015
E-mail address: paul.richardson@darlington.gov.uk

Dear Chair and Headteacher

Proposed School Term Dates for 2021-2022

Please find enclosed the proposed school term dates for Darlington schools for the 2021-2022 Academic Year.

The paper contains the detailed proposals of the consultation, plus an option for those schools that currently have the powers (and wish to) set their own alternative dates. Appendix 1 of the paper contains the detailed calendar of dates proposed and Appendix 2 contains the proforma that Headteachers and/or Chairs should complete to record their preference and return to me by close of business by **Friday 24th May 2019**.

Governing bodies of Voluntary Aided, Free Schools and Academies have the power to set their own term dates, but are encouraged to follow, as far as possible those agreed by the community schools. This will provide continuity for parents and carers, other schools and Colleges, Local Authority staff and schools in other Local Authorities and the term dates in the consultation are therefore proposed for your consideration.

In the event that your school wishes to adopt different term dates in 2021-2022 from those detailed in the consultation, please append your preferred dates to the proforma in Appendix 2.

The term dates model with the most preferences from those returned by **24th May 2019** will be submitted for approval by Cabinet in July 2019 and Darlington's term dates for 2021-2022 will then be published on the Council's website for use by parents, the public and interested parties alike (<http://www.darlington.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-years/school-holiday-dates/>).

I am aware that not all Governing Bodies will hold their termly meeting prior to the closure of the consultation period and would therefore request that this matter be considered separately by the Chair and Headteacher and a return then made from each School before 24th May 2019.

In the event of any queries around this consultation, please contact me by return e-mail at paul.richardson@darlington.gov.uk.



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

SILVER AWARD

Proudly supporting those who serve.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course and in any event by Friday **24th May 2019**.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Richardson', written in a cursive style.

Paul Richardson
Head of Skills and Employability



SCHOOL TERM DATES PLANNING – CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2021-2022

1. REASON FOR THIS ITEM

To bring to Governors and Headteacher's attention the proposed term dates for the 2021-2022 Academic Year and the possible impact this may have on:

- a) the education of children,
- b) staffing in schools including the 195 day envelope for teachers,
- c) the organisation of school support arrangements,
- d) families with children at more than one school and
- e) the wider region.

2. ACTION REQUIRED

Governors and Headteachers of Academy, Voluntary Aided and Free Schools are reminded that they are responsible for setting the term dates for their school and must consult with stakeholders when so doing. Local Authorities are required to consult with maintained schools when setting school terms dates.

Governors and Headteachers are therefore asked to:

- a) Consider the proposed model term dates for 2021-2022 at Appendix 1 to this consultation.
- b) Decide whether they would wish to adopt the model of proposed dates for the 2021-22 academic year. Alternatively, Academies, Voluntary Aided and Free Schools are requested to send in their own arranged dates for 2021-2022 for inclusion in any future publication of term dates for schools in Darlington
- c) Return the attached proforma at Appendix 2 detailing your school's preferred term dates for 2021-2022 (either adopting the model or setting your own dates if an Academy, Voluntary Aided or Free School) to paul.richardson@darlington.gov.uk by **Friday 24th May 2019.**

3. KEY QUESTIONS

Governors and Headteachers may wish to discuss the following in relation to their own school:

- a) What is the likely impact of the school opting for term dates outside the proposed models?
- b) How would the Governing Body consult with stakeholders around any proposed changes to term dates?

Contact Officer:

Name: Paul Richardson

Position: Head of Skills and Employability

Tel no: 01325 406015

E-mail address: paul.richardson@darlington.gov.uk

SCHOOL TERM DATES PLANNING – CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2021-2022

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Officers from Tees Valley have drafted a preferred term date model for the 2021-2022 academic year and are now consulting with stakeholders, including Schools and Governing Bodies, to ascertain their preferences.

The tenet of the process in drawing up the proposed calendars has been to take into account:

- The 190 / 195 school day envelope
- The equalizing of term lengths as far as possible
- The fact that Easter dates vary year-on-year.
- Minimising the number of part-weeks by ensuring, as far as possible, that schools open for full weeks (Monday to Friday).

Academy and Free School funding agreements state that the duration of the school year, term and holiday dates are the responsibility of the Academy Trust. Governing Bodies are required to set term and holiday dates in Foundation and Voluntary Aided (VA) schools, in conjunction with the Local Authority. The majority of Darlington Academies and VA Schools have continued to follow published dates despite having the freedom to set their own dates.

In the event that a Governing Body of an Academy or Free School wishes to set its own term dates for 2021-2022, it would be free to do so but would have to carry out consultation with likely affected parties beforehand, including the Local Authority. Governors should be aware that Local Authority services provided on a term-time basis (such as school crossing patrols, transport for swimming etc.) may not be available if their school is open during a week when the majority of Darlington schools are closed. Governors should also consider the impact on families with children at more than one school (one or more of which may also be outside Darlington) in terms of coordinating family holidays or transport to school if they choose to set different term dates to the majority of Darlington schools.

If schools, governors or other interested parties wish to make enquiries or representation about this matter, please contact Paul Richardson, Head of Skills and Employability at Darlington Borough Council by e-mail at paul.richardson@darlington.gov.uk in the first instance.

2. NEXT STEPS

Headteachers and Governing Bodies are requested to consider the contents of this paper and the model academic year calendar attached to decide their preferred option. Complete the enclosed form and return it to paul.richardson@darlington.gov.uk by **24th May 2019**. Alternatively, for those schools that already have the power conferred on them to do so and who do not wish to adopt the model, they should draw up their own calendar of term dates and consult with their stakeholders (including Darlington Borough Council) accordingly.

	AUGUST 2021	SEPTEMBER 2021	OCTOBER 2021	NOVEMBER 2021	DECEMBER 2021	JANUARY 2022
Monday	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24 31
Tuesday	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25
Wednesday	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26
Thursday	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27
Friday	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28
Saturday	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29
Sunday	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30

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	FEBRUARY 2022	MARCH 2022	APRIL 2022	MAY 2022	JUNE 2022	JULY 2022
Monday	7 14 21 28	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25
Tuesday	1 8 15 22	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26
Wednesday	2 9 16 23	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27
Thursday	3 10 17 24	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28
Friday	4 11 18 25	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29
Saturday	5 12 19 26	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30
Sunday	6 13 20 27	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31

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24

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Bank Holiday	
School Holiday	
PD Days	

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24

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195

The number of term days shown is 195. Up to five of these will be used as professional development days for teaching staff, pupils will not attend these days. Each school determines when these take place and will inform parents.

**SCHOOL TERM DATES PLANNING – CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED
ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2021-2022**

The Governing Body of
School/Academy will adopt the following term date models

2021-2022 Model (local authority proposed option)

**School's own dates (please attach dates to your reply)
(Applicable to Academies, Voluntary Aided and Free
Schools only)**

Signed (Headteacher / Chair of Governors): _____

Date: _____

**Please complete this form and return it to paul.richardson@darlington.gov.uk by
Friday 24th May 2019.**

In the event that the dates proposed in the enclosed model are rejected by more than half of Darlington Schools expressing a preference, the revised dates with the most preferences from those returned by 24th May 2019 will be presented to the Council's Cabinet for approval as Darlington's preferred term dates for 2021-2022. Once ratified by Cabinet, these dates will be published on the LA website for parental guidance during Summer 2019.