



EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION

REPORT OF: Executive Member for Schools and Education

LEAD OFFICER: Director of Children's Services

DATE: 09 June 16

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED: Schools and Education

WARD/S AFFECTED: All

KEY DECISION: YES NO

SUBJECT: SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY PATTERN 2017/2018

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Local Authority (LA) has responsibility for setting the school holiday pattern for Community and Controlled schools. It does this in consultation with neighbouring LAs, schools and teacher associations. For other maintained schools (Voluntary Aided and Foundation) the governing body sets the holiday pattern.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Board:

Agrees the school term and holiday pattern for Community and Controlled schools for 2017/2018 (as set out in Appendix A "Recommended Dates 2017-18").

3. BACKGROUND

The LA is required to set the school holiday pattern for its Community and Controlled schools. The dates are agreed 12 months in advance of schools beginning the new academic year. In February of this year a short consultation was carried out with primary and secondary schools asking for their comments about a set of principles which could be adopted to influence the way in which future years dates are set.

4. KEY ISSUES

Analysis of the results from the consultation would suggest that schools are less inclined to agree a set of principles that influence the way that the pattern is set, preferring to have a pattern that aligns directly with schools in Lancashire. 68% of schools that responded to the consultation referred to the need to fall in line with Lancashire dates given the close proximity between Blackburn and Darwen and Lancashire. Typical comments received included:

- 'We are a school on the border of Lancashire and all our teaching staff live in Lancashire bar one'.
- 'Lancs holiday pattern for 2017/2018 should be the recommended pattern - Leaders from the 2 Councils need to work together before the 2018/2019 pattern is agreed – we need to be

proactive not reactive'.

- 'I have major concerns over the holiday pattern not being in line with Lancashire, our closest neighbours. It is putting an increased pressure on schools and families. 9 out of 11 of my teaching staff do not live in BwDwith the holiday pattern that is proposed it would mean a lot of my staff would not get chance to spend time with their families'

In recent years Blackburn with Darwen has set a pattern based on the model adopted by Lancashire County Council. In 2016/2017 the Executive Member for Schools and Education chose to vary this practice following comments made by a small number of Community school headteachers. In agreeing to this, and for one year only, the Executive Member accepted that where a Community school wanted to depart from the agreed dates, and could provide a business case for doing so this would be considered sympathetically by the Director of Children's Services.

Agreeing a uniform set of dates for the Borough is not possible as all of the secondary schools and over half of primary schools can set their own holiday patterns. This will increase in future years as the school stock changes from maintained schools to academies.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications arising from this report.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Schools must be open for at least 190 days during any school year to educate their pupils. The Local Authority is currently responsible for setting the school holiday pattern for Community and Controlled schools.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no other resource implications arising from this report.

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2 In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA link here)*

Option 3 In determining this matter the Executive Board members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA attachment)*



School term and holiday pattern EIA v

10. CONSULTATIONS

Schools, Governing Bodies and Teacher Associations were asked to share their views on the principles associated with the setting of holiday pattern by the LA. The overriding feedback was that

Blackburn with Darwen should continue to set a pattern that aligns with the dates agreed by Lancashire.

It is important to note that once agreed by the LA and published, the holiday pattern is binding on all community and voluntary controlled schools in Blackburn with Darwen. Voluntary Aided and Foundation governing bodies are requested to give consideration to the advice from the Local Authority when determining their school calendar.

11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded in the Summary of Decisions published on the day following the meeting.

VERSION:	0.03
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CONTACT OFFICER:	Jessica Byrne, Head of Service, Education Excellence
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DATE:	26 April 2016
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BACKGROUND PAPER:	Appendix A - Recommended Dates for 2017/18
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