



EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION

REPORT OF: Executive Member for Schools and Education

LEAD OFFICER: Director of Children's Services

DATE: 13th April 2017

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED: Schools and Education

WARD/S AFFECTED: All

KEY DECISION: YES NO

SUBJECT: SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY PATTERN 2018/2019

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Local Authority (LA) has responsibility for setting the school holiday pattern for Community and Controlled schools. This is done 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 2018/2019 (as set out in Appendix A "Recommended Dates 2018-19").

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 2017 the dates were circulated for consultation with primary and secondary schools. In addition the dates were sent to Teacher Associations and discussed at the Governors' Forum meeting in February.

4. KEY ISSUES

Schools prefer the LA to set a pattern that is aligned with Lancashire County Council. In this way there is less disruption for families and employees. Feedback given to Lancashire this year resulted in the half term in Autumn moving back to the end of October and this is welcomed by schools in Blackburn with Darwen.

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 is likely to increase in the years ahead as more of 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

Maintained 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.



School term and holiday pattern 2018-

10. CONSULTATIONS

Schools, the Governors' forum and Teacher Associations were all asked for comments in relation to the proposed holiday pattern. The Local Authority has received only 2 responses from schools, the first from a Headteacher stating that the Autumn term was too long and suggested that schools start later in September to reduce the number of days in the Autumn. The other formal response was from another Headteacher cautioning strongly about agreeing a pattern that was not aligned with Lancashire. The Governors' Forum at their meeting on 9th February passed a motion to support the proposed dates as set out in Appendix A.

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: 1.0

CONTACT OFFICER: Jessica Byrne, Head of Service, Education Excellence

DATE:

BACKGROUND PAPER: Appendix A - Recommended Dates for 2018/19

