

EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION



REPORT OF: Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education

LEAD OFFICERS: Director of Children's Services & Education

DATE: Thursday, 11 June 2020

PORTFOLIO(S) AFFECTED:

WARD/S AFFECTED: (All Wards);

KEY DECISION: Y

SUBJECT:

School Holiday Pattern for Community and Controlled Schools 2021/2022

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. Trustees of Free schools and Academies (schools independent of the LA) have responsibility for setting their term and holiday dates

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Board:

Agrees the school term and holiday pattern for Community and Controlled schools for 2021/2022 (as set out in Appendix 2 "Recommended Dates 2021/2022).

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 the dates were circulated for consultation with primary and secondary schools. In addition the dates were sent to Teacher Associations for their observations and comments.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

Schools have a preference for the LA to set a pattern that is aligned with Lancashire County Council. In this way there is less disruption for families and employees.

Due to the composition of the maintained school sector in the Borough agreeing a uniform set of dates is not possible as all of the secondary schools and over a half of primary schools can set their own holiday patterns. This may well increase in the years ahead as more schools change from maintained schools to academies.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Schools, Governors and Teacher Associations were all asked for comments in relation to the proposed holiday pattern. In recent years the Local Authority has received only a very limited

number of comments and these have been consistent with comments received in previous years wanting the pattern to be aligned as much as possible with Lancashire's holiday pattern, to avoid problems with members of staff who have children attending schools in Lancashire. There have been no responses received this year.

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.

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 responsible for setting the school holiday pattern for Community and Controlled schools.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no resource implications arising from this report.

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below.

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.

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.

10. CONSULTATIONS

Schools, Governors and Teacher Associations were all asked for comments in relation to the proposed holiday pattern. The Local Authority has not received any responses.

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.

CONTACT OFFICER:	Andrew Hutchinson, Ailsa Smith, , andrew.hutchinson@blackburn.gov.uk, ailsa.smith@blackburn.gov.uk
DATE:	28/04/2020
BACKGROUND PAPER:	Initial EIA assessment (attachedAppendix 1)