



# EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION

<b>REPORT OF:</b>	Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education
<b>LEAD OFFICERS:</b>	Strategic Director of Children & Education (DCS)
<b>DATE:</b>	Thursday, 11 April 2024

<b>PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED:</b>	Children, Young People and Education
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>KEY DECISION:</b>	Y

**SUBJECT: EB - School Holiday Pattern for Community and Controlled schools 2025/2026**

## 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 board determines 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 2025/2026 (as set out in Appendix One Draft School term and Holiday Pattern 2025/2026)

## 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. On the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2024 the proposed dates were circulated widely in the Headteachers' bulletin asking for feedback and comments to be returned by 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024. The dates were also sent separately to Teacher and Green book Union representatives asking for their comments.

## 4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

Schools have a preference for the LA to set a pattern that is aligned with the dates that have been agreed by 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.

## 5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Schools, Governors and Teacher Associations were all asked for comments in relation to the

proposed holiday pattern. In recent years the LA has received only a very limited number of comments with most respondents wanting the pattern to be aligned with Lancashire's holiday pattern, to avoid problems with members of staff who have children attending schools in Lancashire. There have been 3 responses received 2 from Community Primary schools in support of the pattern, and one from a Trust indicating that all their schools will follow the pattern.

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, Foundation and Academies are asked to give consideration to the advice from the LA when determining their school calendars

## 6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial issue arising from this report

## 7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The LA is responsible for setting the school holiday pattern for Community and Controlled schools. The Education (School Day and School Year) (England) Regulations 1999 stipulate that maintained schools must be open for 190 days during any school year to educate their pupils. Under the annual School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD), all teachers are required to be available to work for 190 (+5 inset) days in each academic year. The proposed holiday pattern for 2025/2026 satisfies this legal requirement

## 8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no 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*)

## 10. CONSULTATIONS

Schools, governors and Teacher Associations were all asked for comments in relation to the proposed holiday pattern. The LA has only received three responses as indicated above.

## 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.

<b>VERSION:</b>	<b>1</b>
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<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>Andrew Hutchinson</b>
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<b>DATE:</b>	19 Feb 2024
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<b>BACKGROUND PAPER:</b>	School Holiday Pattern Appendix 1
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