

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education

DECISION NO:

19/00006

Unrestricted

Key decision: YES

School Term Dates 2020-2021 and 2021-22

Subject: Proposal to determine the School Term Dates for 2020-2021 and 2021-22

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education, I agree to:

- i. determine the school term dates for 2020-21 and 2021-22

Reason(s) for decision:

1.1 KCC is responsible for setting term dates for community and voluntary controlled schools, while governing bodies of foundation and voluntary aided schools are responsible for setting their own term dates. Academies and free schools also have the freedom to change the length of terms.

1.2 In previous years the Local Government Association (LGA) has coordinated the preparation of a Standard School Year draft for each year. However, the LGA has decided to stop coordinating the development of draft models for standard school years. This is because only around 40% of areas are now following the Standard School Year. The Government's policies to promote academies and free schools will mean that increasingly school governing bodies will be determining the school term dates for their schools.

1.3 Over a school year, pupils are required to attend for 190 days/380 sessions. In total, teachers may be required to be available for work on up to 195 days, with the additional days specified by individual schools as non-contact days. Schools may also require teachers to work additional hours before or after school sessions, as an alternative to full non-contact days, provided that any teacher is not required to work in aggregate more than 1,265 hours during a school year. Schools may therefore choose to require teachers to make up the full equivalent of the 5 non-contact days wholly through additional hours, or use a mixture of additional hours and non-contact days.

Equality Implications

A full impact assessment has been completed and can be found via the following link: <https://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/termdates2020to2022/consultationHome>

Financial Implications

There are no direct cost implications arising from the decision on the school calendar. However, if individual foundation, voluntary aided schools, academies or free schools determine a different pattern of term dates, they may incur additional costs in relation to home to school transport, as the authority passes any additional costs on to the schools concerned.

Legal Implications

KCC has a statutory responsibility to ensure the school term dates are set in accordance with the DfE guidance on School attendance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-attendance>

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee at its meeting on the 28th March 2019 discussed the decision, the minute extract is below:

Mr Adams (Area Education Officer (South Kent)) was in attendance for this item.

1. Mr Adams introduced the report which set out the proposed decision to agree the school term dates for Kent County Council's community and voluntary controlled schools for the school years 2020-21 and 2021-22.

Mr Adams then responded to comments and questions from Members, including the following: -

a) Mr Adams said that a significant number of schools in Kent were their own admissions authority and could therefore set their own term dates.

b) Mr Adams talked about the support that was in place in Kent for teachers in terms of managing the relationship between work and health.

2. RESOLVED that the proposed decision to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education to agree the school term dates for Kent County Council's community and voluntary controlled schools for the school years 2020-21 and 2021-22, be endorsed.

KCC consulted on the proposed term dates for the academic years 2020-21, 2021-22 from 14 January to 24 February 2019. The consultation was circulated to all schools via the e-bulletin and with other key stakeholders such as governors (including parent groups), the Diocesan bodies, trade unions and neighbouring local authorities. The general public was also encouraged to participate. Below is a link to the consultation and equalities impact assessment: <https://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/termdates2020to2022/consultationHome>

The consultation received 54 responses as follows: 26 parents/ carers (including grandparents), 15 Headteachers (including Head of school and a deputy head), 6 teachers including teaching assistants, 3 school governors, 2 school admin and 2 union reps.

The majority of respondents, 35 out of 54, supported the proposed term dates for 2020-21 and 2021-22, 17 respondents opposed the dates and 2 were undecided.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

KCC carried out a full consultation and all responses were considered. The outcome of the consultation showed most respondents agreed with the proposed dates and therefore no alterations were deemed necessary.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer: None.



4 April 2019

signed

date