

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Shellina Prendergast,
Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

DECISION NO:

To be allocated by
Democratic Services

For publication [Do not include information which is exempt from publication under schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972]

Key decision: YES

Key decision criteria. The decision will:

- a) *result in savings or expenditure which is significant having regard to the budget for the service or function (currently defined by the Council as in excess of £1,000,000); or*
- b) *be significant in terms of its effects on a significant proportion of the community living or working within two or more electoral divisions – which will include those decisions that involve:*
 - *the adoption or significant amendment of major strategies or frameworks;*
 - *significant service developments, significant service reductions, or significant changes in the way that services are delivered, whether County-wide or in a particular locality.*

Subject Matter / Title of Decision

School Term Dates for 2023-24

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, I agree to: the School Term dates for 2023-24.

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 decide their dates and length of terms.
- 1.2 In previous years the Local Government Association (LGA) has coordinated the preparation of a draft standard school year. However, the LGA has decided to stop coordinating the development of these draft models, because only around 40% of areas are now following the standard school year, as more academies and free schools determine the 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.
- 1.4 In determining the proposed future school term dates, KCC carried out a full consultation on the proposed dates.

2. Consultation

2.1 KCC consulted on the proposed term dates for the academic year 2023-24 from 8 March until 19 April 2022. 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 equality impact assessment:

<https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/schooltermdates23-24>

2.2 The consultation page was visited 3.27k times and received 163 responses.

2.3 The majority of respondents, 83 out of 163, supported the proposed term dates for 2023-24,

3. Equalities Assessment

3.1 The EqIA has been reviewed again following the consultation and no updates were required

4. Financial Implications

4.1 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.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

This decision will be considered at the meeting of the Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee on 10th May 2022.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

All alternatives were considered following the consultation process.

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

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signed

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date