

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

**DECISION TAKEN BY:**

**Shellina Prendergast**

**Cabinet Member for Education and Skills**

**DECISION NO:**

**21/00092**

**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**

**Queen's Platinum Jubilee and Alterations to the School Year 2021/22**

**Decision:**

As Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, I agree to:

- 1) End the Summer term 2022 a day early so that term finishes on Thursday 21 July 2022 instead of Friday 22 July 2022.

**Reason(s) for decision:**

- 1.1 In England, local authority-maintained schools operating according to the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD) must open for 195 days.
- 1.2 Of these, a maximum of 190 days involve teaching children and young people. The remaining five days are non-teaching days when teachers may be asked to undertake other duties related to their role as a teacher. These are often known as in-service training (INSET) days.
- 1.3 The school term dates for Kent community, voluntary-controlled, community special or maintained nursery schools are determined by KCC and the local authority is the employer.
- 1.4 For the academic year 2021/22, in acknowledgement of the additional Bank Holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the DfE has agreed the following position to assist schools and local authorities in their planning:
- 1.5 DfE have laid regulations to reduce the minimum number of sessions schools are required to meet in the academic year 2021/2022 and enable everyone to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen on 3 June 2022.
- 1.6 The Department will review the necessary legislation and, as far as the STPCD is concerned, make an amendment for the September 21 version that reduces the number of days that

teachers need to be available to work from 190 (+5 INSET days) to 189 (+5 INSET days) and will also reduce the number of directed hours by 6.5. The total school year will therefore be 194 days.

- 1.7 In essence, teachers will teach one less day for the academic year 2021/22, down from 195 to 194 (including INSET days), or down from 190 to 189 (excluding INSET days) across 1,258.5 hours as opposed to 1,265 hours of directed time. An extra day of holiday will therefore need to be allocated by KCC as the employer.

## **2. Preferred option**

- 2.1 KCC has considered various options and the option with the least impact was to end the Summer term a day early so that term finishes on Thursday 21 July 2022 instead of Friday 22 July 2022.

## **3. Consultation (if any)**

- 3.1 Local Authority controlled schools were consulted along with Governors, Unions and the Kent Association of Headteachers.

4. **Equalities Assessment:** A full impact assessment has been completed.

## **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 There are no direct cost implications arising from the decision on the school calendar. However, there may be a small reduction in school transport costs as term is ending a day earlier.

### **Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:**

This decision was considered at the meeting of the Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee on 16 November 2021.

### **Any alternatives considered and rejected:**

KCC has considered various options:

- I. Add an extra day to the Christmas break for 2021, as the holidays end on 3rd January (Bank holiday Monday) with schools returning on Tuesday 4th January 2022. Schools would therefore return on Wednesday 5th January 2022 instead.
- II. Add an extra day to the end of the Easter break so that schools return on Wednesday 20th April instead of Tuesday 19th April 2022.
- III. Add an extra day to the Spring Bank Holiday in 2022, so that term begins on Tuesday 7th June instead of Monday 6th.
- IV. End the Summer term a day early so that term finishes on Thursday 21 July 2022 instead of Friday 22 July 2022.

Consideration was given to the first two options, however giving an extra day before the Platinum Jubilee may not be in the spirit of celebrating the longevity of the Queen's reign. A further consideration is that mock exams are often held in January and schools may not welcome an extra day.

Option C was ruled out as, similar to option A, exams fall after this holiday and schools are unlikely to welcome an additional day off.

A further consideration is that many schools have already planned for the year ahead, and by adding an extra day to any of the holidays before the end of the summer term may prove challenging.

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



18-11-21

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signed

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date