

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Rory Love,
Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

DECISION NO:

23/00036

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) *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 2024-25

Decision:

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

- (1) Agree the school term dates for KCC community and voluntary controlled schools for the school year 2024-25

Reason(s) for decision:

Background

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.

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 localities are now following the standard school year, as more academies and free schools determine the term dates for their schools.

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.

In determining the proposed future school term dates, KCC carried out a full consultation on the proposed dates. The proposed dates are attached as appendix 1.

Consultation Process and Proposed Dates

KCC consulted on the proposed term dates for the academic year 2024-25 from 23 February until 4 April 2023. 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 by using KCC Facebook and Twitter channels, an article in KCC's residents' e-newsletter and a link was sent to 3037 registered users on Let's talk Kent. Below is a link to the consultation and equality impact assessment: [School Term Dates for 2024/25 | Let's talk Kent](#)

The consultation webpage was visited 1670 times. 335 responses were received with 114 respondents agreed to the proposal, 204 disagreed for varying reasons, 15 left no response and 2 were undecided.

Of the responses received to the proposed term dates for 2024-25, which consisted of parents, carers, Headteachers and teachers; school governors, early years settings, other Local Authority, grandparents, local businesses and employers.

Consequently, although the consultation received more comments disagreeing with the proposed dates, when the responses were analysed there were varying reasons for the disagreement. It is recommended that as 114 people supported the proposed dates in 2024-25,

Equalities Impact Assessment

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

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 implication

If we do not determine the term dates, the LA will not be meeting its statutory obligation.

Other Alternatives Considered and risks if decision isn't taken.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The Children's and Young People Cabinet Committee consider the decision on 16 May 2023.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

All alternatives were presented to the CYPE Cabinet Committee on 16 May 2023.

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

