

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL –RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,
Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

16/00037

For publication

Subject: School Year dates for 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform I agree to: determine the School Year dates for 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20

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.
- 1.4 The Department of Education (DfE) recently announced that the proposed Deregulation Bill will not allow Maintained Schools the power to set their own term dates, as there has been no real clamour from schools that do not have this power to have this freedom. The Government decided that due to the lack of interest, and the concerns raised by National Union of Teachers (NUT) regarding parental confusion and lack of cohesion between schools, it would not be appropriate to allow all Maintained Schools to set their own dates. However, the DfE does encourage local authorities to listen sympathetically to arguments for change from these schools.
- 1.5 In determining the proposed future school term dates, KCC is required to consult on the proposed dates.

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.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

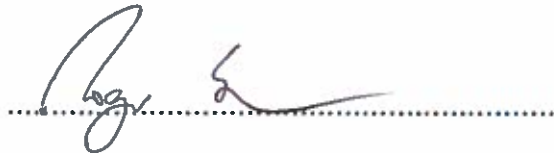
17 March 2016

At its meeting the Cabinet Committee for Education and Young People's Services resolved to endorse the recommendation that the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform takes decision to determine the School Year dates for 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20

Any alternatives considered:

KCC consulted on the proposed term dates for the academic years 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 from 8 January 2016 to 28 February 2016. 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 our neighbouring authorities. The general public was also encouraged to participate. The dates were altered following the feedback from this consultation

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:



Signed

23 March 2016

Date