

Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Tuesday, 21 May 2013

School Session Dates for 2014/15

Item number	7.13
Report number	
Wards	All

Links

Coalition pledges	P5
Council outcomes	CO2
Single Outcome Agreement	SO3

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Executive summary

School Session Dates 2014/15

Summary

The annual consultation took place on the proposed Session Dates for 2014/15 with the following interested bodies:

- Parent Council Chairs (consulting with parents)
- Head Teachers (consulting with staff)
- Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers (LNCT)
- Neighbourhood Meetings for Parent Councils

Recommendations

1. The Education, Children and Families Committee is asked to approve the Session Dates for 2014/15.

Measures of success

Not applicable.

Financial impact

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Equalities impact

There is no direct equalities impact arising from this report.

Sustainability impact

There is no sustainability impact arising from this report

Consultation and engagement

Consultation took place, the number of responses as follows:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| • Parents | 1 |
| • School staff/Head Teachers | 4 |

- Parent Councils 11
- Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers (LNCT) 1

Background reading / external references

School Session Dates 2014/15

1. Background

- 1.1 This is an annual exercise, consulting with all interested bodies to determine School Session Dates for 2014/15.

2. Main report

- 2.1 The annual consultation took place with the following:
- Parent Council Chairs (consulting with parents)
 - Head Teachers (consulting with all staff)
 - Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers (LNCT)
 - Neighbourhood Parent Council meetings.

Summary of responses

- 2.2 Seventeen responses to the consultation were received (11 Parent Councils; 4 school staff/Head Teachers; 1 parent; 1 LNCT)
- 2.3 The LNCT wanted the February holiday to be in the middle of term 2. This change was made prior to the remainder of the consultation.
- 2.4 Two responses were concerned that neighbouring authorities had a later start date – 18 August 2014. Three wanted a longer Summer holiday to allow pupils to enjoy the Festivals. Several respondents stated that the Autumn term is too long and that term commencing on 11 August 2014 prohibits families taking the first two weeks in August as a break.
- 2.5 Some other comments related to a later holiday in October, term to finish closer to Christmas Day, Easter holidays to be fixed as the first two weeks in April and Victoria Day not to be observed.
- 2.6 Regarding In-Service Days, some commented that they wished church halls or libraries to be used in place of schools to minimise disruption to pupils.

Break Down by Days

2.7 The school session can be broken down by days of the week as follows:

Pupils (190 days), comprising: Monday 33, Tuesday: 39 Wednesday 40
Thursday 39, Friday 39

Staff (195 days), comprising: Monday 36, Tuesday 40, Wednesday 40
Thursday 40, Friday 39

In-Service Days on Polling Days

2.8 A report on the Statutory Review of Polling Districts and Places was submitted to the City of Edinburgh Council on 18 November 2010.

2.9 One of the recommendations was to 'agree to the designation of a staff In-Service day in all City of Edinburgh primary schools on polling days for fixed term elections, where the dates are known well in advance, subject to further discussion with the Director of Children and Families'.

2.10 Whilst it is primary schools which are mainly used as polling stations, it was proposed that all schools (secondary, primary, special and nursery) would close to pupils but be used for staff In-Service training. For Session 2014/15, schools will be closed on 7 May 2015 for UK Parliamentary Elections

A further review of polling places is under way and will be reported to City of Edinburgh Council before the end of the year.

Transition Days

2.11 A transition day programme has taken place annually in June in all secondary schools. This was discussed at the Secondary Head Teacher meeting in August 2008 and it was agreed that the dates should be formalised with the transition for all schools taking place on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of the penultimate week. It was noted that the programme would not necessarily be offered for three full days.

2.12 The transition days for 2015 would therefore be Tuesday 16, Wednesday 17 and Thursday 18 June 2015.

Scottish Government Referendum on Independence from the UK (18 September 2014)

2.13 Schools not used as Polling Stations will be open as normal on the 18 September 2014.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The Education, Children and Families Committee is asked to approve the Session Dates for 2014/15.

Gillian Tee

Director of Children and Families

Links

Coalition pledges	P5. Seek to ensure the smooth introduction of the Curriculum for Excellence and that management structures within our schools support the new curriculum
Council outcomes	CO2. Our children and young people are successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens making a positive contribution to their communities
Single Outcome Agreement	SO3. Edinburgh's children and young people enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential
Appendices	1. Session Dates 2014/15

DRAFT**School Session Dates 2014/15**

Staff resume		Monday	11 August *	2014
Staff only		Tuesday	12 August *	2014
Pupils return		Wednesday	13 August	2014
Autumn Holiday	Schools closed	Monday	15 September	2014
All resume		Tuesday	16 September	2014
Mid-term	All break	Friday	10 October	2014
	Staff resume	Monday	20 October*	2014
	Pupils resume	Tuesday	21 October	2014
Term ends		Friday	19 December	2014

Staff resume		Monday	5 January*	2015
Pupils resume		Tuesday	6 January	2015
Mid-term	All break	Friday	13 February	2015
	All resume	Monday	23 February	2015
Term ends		Thursday	2 April	2015
<i>The Easter break incorporates the following three holidays</i>				
Good Friday	Schools closed	Friday	3 April	2015
Easter Monday	Schools closed	Monday	6 April	2015
Spring Holiday	Schools Closed	Monday	20 April	2015
All Resume		Tuesday	21 April	2015
May Day	Schools closed	Monday	4 May	2015
All resume		Tuesday	5 May	2015
In Service Day	Closed for Pupils	Thursday	7 May*	2015
Victoria Day	Schools closed	Monday	18 May	2015
All resume		Tuesday	19 May	2015
Term ends		Friday	26 June	2015

* Five In-Service days for all schools.

The above timetable allows for staff and pupil attendance as follows;

	Pupils	Staff
Term 1	86	89
Term 2	58	59
Term 3	46	47
Total	190	195

P7/S1 Transition Days – Tuesday 16 June, Wednesday 17 June and Thursday 18 June 2015.
 Certain schools will be closed on Thursday 18 September for the Scottish Independence Referendum.
 In-Service Day Thursday 7 May 2015 coincides with date for General Election.

The start date for session 2015/2016 for pupils has been provisionally identified as Wednesday 19 August 2015.