

# Education, Children and Families Committee

**10.00, Tuesday, 10 December 2019**

## **School session dates amendment 2020/21**

Executive/routine  
Wards  
Council Commitments

### **1. Recommendations**

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The Education, Children and Families Committee is asked to:

- 1.1 Approve the proposed amendment to the Christmas holiday dates for 2020/21.

**Alistair Gaw**

Executive Director for Communities and Families

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# Report

## 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 On 5 March 2019, the Education, Children and Families Committee approved a motion to consult with head teachers on a potential change to the Christmas holiday dates for 2020/21. Head teachers were asked whether the dates should remain as previously agreed or be changed in line with the motion. 72% of respondents agreed with the proposed change.

## 3. Background

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- 3.1 The motion was submitted by Councillor Laidlaw. It noted that the agreed Christmas holidays for the school year 2020/21 are from Thursday 24 December 2020 to Wednesday 6 January 2021, with the last day in school being Wednesday 23 December. The motion recognised that many pupils and staff need to travel and/or prepare for Christmas and that the agreed dates could make that more difficult.
- 3.2 The motion requested that head teachers be consulted on the proposal that Tuesday 22 December 2020 becomes the last day of term with the holiday from Wednesday 23 December 2020 to Tuesday 5 January 2021. Committee approved the motion.
- 3.3 The issue was first raised through the Consultative Committee with Parents (CCwP) and discussed at its meeting on 28 February 2019. The convener agreed to canvas head teacher opinion. The specific date change was also discussed at the CCwP on 5 December 2019.

## 4. Main report

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- 4.1 All head teachers were asked whether they thought the existing dates should be maintained or changed in line with the motion.
- 4.2 112 heads responded. 81 (72%) thought that the holidays should change and 31 (28%) thought that they should stay as they are. The response was consistent across the sectors (early learning and childcare, primary, secondary and special).

## **5. Next Steps**

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- 5.1 If the proposed change is approved, the session dates for 2020/21 will be updated on the Council website and schools informed of the change.

## **6. Financial impact**

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- 6.1 There are no financial impacts associated with this report.

## **7. Stakeholder/Community Impact**

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- 7.1 The issue of session dates for 2020/21 was raised initially at the Consultative Committee with Parents.

## **8. Background reading/external references**

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- 8.1 [School session dates consultation](#). Education, Children and Families Committee 6 March 2018

## **9. Appendices**

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