

Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00, Tuesday, 2 March 2021

School session dates amendment 2021/22

Executive/routine
Wards
Council Commitments

1. Recommendations

The Education, Children and Families Committee is asked to:

- 1.1 Approve the proposed amendment to the Christmas holiday dates for 2021/22.

Andy Gray

Head of Schools and Lifelong Learning

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Report

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 Committee is asked to agree a change to the scheduled Christmas holiday dates for 2021/22 from Friday 24 December 2021 to Monday 10 January 2022 to Monday 20 December 2021 to Tuesday 4 January 2022.

3. Background

- 3.1 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. 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. The scheduled dates had been that term would end on Wednesday 23 December with the holidays starting on Thursday 24 December.
- 3.2 The issue was first raised through the Consultative Committee with Parents (CCwP) and discussed at its meeting on 28 February 2019.
- 3.3 112 heads responded to the consultation. 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).

4. Main report

- 4.1 There is a similar issue with the currently agreed Christmas holiday dates for 2021/22. Term is scheduled to end on Thursday 23 December with the holidays starting on Friday 24 December. The next term is due to start on Tuesday 11 January 2022.
- 4.2 Given that almost three quarters of heads thought that the dates should change to an earlier holiday two years ago and that parents' representatives have raised the issue in the past, it is proposed that the holiday dates are amended to an earlier end of term.
- 4.3 Instead of the holidays going into the second full week of January as they currently are scheduled to, it is proposed that the dates are amended to Monday 20 December to Tuesday 4 January with the new term starting on Wednesday 5 January 2022. This means that term would instead end on Friday 17 December. This would allow for two weeks holiday and three weekends. This is in line with the response to the previous consultation.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 If the proposed change is approved, the session dates for 2021/22 will be updated on the Council website and schools informed of the change.
- 5.2 School staff, parents/carers and pupils will be consulted on the criteria for setting session dates for 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/5 this month and proposed dates for those years will be brought to the May Committee meeting.

6. Financial impact

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

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

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

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 [School session dates consultation](#) Education, Children and Families Committee 6 March 2018
- 8.2 [School session dates amendment 2020/21](#) Education, Children and Families Committee 10 December 2019

9. Appendices

None