

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

2 April 2019

Report of the Strategic Director for Children's Services

School Term Dates – 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To ask the Cabinet Member to consider and approve the recommended school term dates proposed for 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25. From September 2015, all schools and academies have had the freedom to set their own school term dates and holiday pattern. Nevertheless, it is believed that there is still a role for the local authority to formulate a recommended academic calendar to promote consistency within a geographic area and minimise difficulties for families with siblings attending different schools and other interested parties.

2 Information and Analysis

- 2.1 In recent years, Derbyshire County Council has sought to achieve a consistent approach to the setting of School Term and Holiday dates with neighbouring authorities where possible and particularly with Derby City Council. In 2004, when consideration was being given nationally to agreeing standardised school term dates, a set of principles were identified from the recommendations of the Independent Commission on the Organisation of the School Year. Although the proposal to adopt national school term dates was not implemented, the following sets of principles to underpin the delivery of a national model, can also be applied to achieving local consistency.

'The Principles'

- Start the academic year on a September date as near as possible to 1 September.
- Equalise, as far as possible, teaching and learning blocks.
- Establish a two-week spring break in early April, irrespective of the incidence of the Easter bank holiday.

- Maintain a summer holiday of at least six weeks.
 - Identify and agree annually designated periods of holiday, including the summer holiday, where head teachers are recommended not to arrange the five teacher professional development days.
- 2.2 Consultation has taken place with neighbouring authorities and while some consistency can be achieved, it is not possible to match all of the term dates adopted, or currently proposed for adoption, of all the bordering local authorities. Derby City Council is in receipt of Derbyshire County Council’s proposed dates and an indication has been given that they wish to agree the same pattern.
- 2.3 One neighbouring authority is moving to a pattern of scheduling an Autumn half term break of two weeks and reducing the summer vacation to five weeks. Another local authority bordering Derbyshire will be fixing a two-week Spring break, irrespective of the incidence of the Easter holiday, as listed in the third bullet point above.
- 2.4 The school term dates, attached as Appendix 1 of this report, do not include either of the two patterns outlined in 2.3. Formal consultation has taken place with the recognised Trade Unions and Professional Associations at Schools’ Joint Consultative Committee, and consultation with schools has been conducted through the Primary, Secondary and Special School Headteacher Forums. In addition to supporting four of the five Principles set out above, consultees have also expressed a strong preference for two-week breaks at Christmas and Easter which incorporate three weekends, for the restorative benefits to pupils and staff.
- 2.5 Although there was strong interest in following a holiday model that matches their own neighbouring authority, Head teachers recognised that this was not possible across the county. There was no expressed preference for a change to the usual pattern of a six-week summer vacation, and the introduction of a two-week Autumn half term break. Advocacy for the introduction of a two-week break in the Autumn term cites that this pattern can be supportive for children transferring from primary to secondary school. During consultation, secondary Headteachers were more concerned to retain the number of weeks in the terms in the Autumn and Spring, to support maximum productive learning opportunities. Scheduling a two-week break in the Autumn requires a week of term time to be added at the end of the Summer term. As this is after examinations and at a time when it is more difficult to maintain pupils’ focus, Head teachers were not in favour of this option.

- 2.6 No interest was expressed in moving to a model whereby a two-week break is taken in the Summer Term, which would reduce the end of year vacation to five weeks. No neighbouring authority was found to be currently following this pattern, so such a change would not enable Derbyshire to better match the holiday dates of an adjacent authority. It is recognised that there is evidence that some pupils’ learning benefits from a shorter summer vacation. Although our consultees were not in favour of this model, if a school or cluster of schools believes that this pattern would be advantageous for their cohorts, schools can utilise the freedom to set their own term dates.
- 2.7 Although the creation of a two-week end of Spring Term break, regardless of the timing of Easter bank holidays, is one of the Principles identified above, it is not proposed to recommend this approach. In the past, Derbyshire Local Authority has trialled such a model and found it adversely affected pupil attendance. Depending on the timing of the Easter Weekend itself, this approach can lead to two breaks in school working time occurring in close proximity, which was found to be disruptive.
- 2.8 The recognised Trade Unions and Professional Associations support the proposed Derbyshire model for school term and holiday dates.
- 2.9 While schools and academies may select their own term and holiday dates, many Derbyshire schools have indicated that they wish to continue to receive DCC’s recommended term dates to serve as a basis for their decisions. In these circumstances, it is proposed that (subject to Cabinet Member approval) the Council will strongly recommend that schools should adopt the attached schedule of school term and holiday dates for the years 2020/21 to 2024/25. This would provide consistency for schools, young people, and their parents and carers.

3 Other Considerations

- 3.1 In preparing this report, the relevance of the following factors has been considered: Prevention of Crime & Disorder, Equality of Opportunity and Environmental, Health, Legal & Human Rights Considerations.
- 3.2 Under the Education (School Day and School Year) Regulations 1999 (as amended) all maintained schools should hold at least 380 half-day school sessions during the school year. Schools will determine when a further 10 half-days are to be taken as professional development days for staff.

4 Strategic Director's Recommendations

- 4.1 The Cabinet Member is asked to consider and approve the proposal in relation to school term dates to then be recommended to Derbyshire schools in 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25.

**Jane Parfremment
Strategic Director for Children's Services**

Appendix 1

2020/2021

2 September – 23 October	38 days
2 November – 18 December	35 days
	73 days
4 January – 12 February	30 days
22 February – 1 April	29 days
	59 days
19 April – 28 May (-3 May, May Day)	29 days
7 June – 22 July	34 days
	63 days
Total	195 days

2021/22

2 September – 22 October	37 days
1 November – 23 December	39 days
	76 days
10 January – 18 February	30 days
28 February – 8 April	30 days
	60 days
25 April – 27 May (-2 May, May Day)	24 days
6 June – 22 July	35 days
	59 days
Total	195 days

2022/23

1 September – 21 October	37 days
31 October – 22 December	39 days
	76 days
9 January – 17 February	30 days
27 February – 31 March	25 days
	55 days
17 April – 26 May (-1 May, May Day)	29 days
5 June – 21 July	35 days
	64 days
Total	195 days

2023/24

4 September – 27 October	40 days
6 November – 22 December	35 days
	75 days
8 January – 16 February	30 days
26 February – 28 March	24 days
	54 days
15 April – 24 May (-6 May, May Day)	29 days
3 June – 23 July	37 days
	66 days
Total	195 days

2024/25

4 September – 25 October	38 days
4 November – 20 December	35 days
	73 days
6 January – 14 February	30 days
24 February – 4 April	30 days
	60 days
22 April – 23 May (-5 May, May Day)	23 days
2 June – 24 July	39 days
	62 days
Total	195 days

School calendar 2020/21 (UK)

August 2020							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
31						1	2
32	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
33	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
34	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
35	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
36	31						

September 2020							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
36		1	2	3	4	5	6
37	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
38	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
39	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
40	28	29	30				

October 2020							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
40				1	2	3	4
41	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
42	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
43	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
44	26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2020							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
44							1
45	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
46	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
47	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
48	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
49	30						

December 2020							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
49		1	2	3	4	5	6
50	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
51	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
52	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
53	28	29	30	31			

January 2021							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
53					1	2	3
1	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
3	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
4	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2021							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
7	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8	22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2021							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
12	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
13	29	30	31				

April 2021							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
13				1	2	3	4
14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
16	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
17	26	27	28	29	30		

May 2021							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
17						1	2
18	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
21	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
22	31						

June 2021							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
22		1	2	3	4	5	6
23	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
24	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
25	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	28	29	30				

July 2021							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
26				1	2	3	4
27	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
28	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
29	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
30	26	27	28	29	30	31	

Denotes Bank holidays

Denotes School holiday dates

195 days – including up to 5 days to be taken

School calendar 2022/23

August 2022							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
32	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
33	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
34	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
35	29	30	31				
35							

September 2022							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
35				1	2	3	4
36	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
37	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
38	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
39	26	27	28	29	30		

October 2022							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
39						1	2
40	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
41	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
42	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
43	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
44	31						

November 2022							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
44		1	2	3	4	5	6
45	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
46	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
47	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
48	28	29	30				

December 2022							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
48				1	2	3	4
49	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
50	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
51	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
52	26	27	28	29	30	31	

January 2023							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
52							1
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
3	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
4	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
5	30	31					

February 2023							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
5			1	2	3	4	5
6	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
7	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9	27	28					

March 2023							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
9			1	2	3	4	5
10	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
12	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
13	27	28	29	30	31		

April 2023							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
13						1	2
14	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
17	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

May 2023							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
18	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
19	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
20	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
22	29	30	31				

June 2023							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
22				1	2	3	4
23	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
24	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
25	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	26	27	28	29	30		

July 2023							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
26						1	2
27	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
28	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
29	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
30	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	31						

Denotes Bank holidays

Denotes School holiday dates

195 days – including up to 5 days to be taken

School calendar 2023/24

August 2023							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
31		1	2	3	4	5	6
32	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
33	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
34	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
35	28	29	30	31			

September 2023							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
35					1	2	3
36	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
37	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
38	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
39	25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2023							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
39							1
40	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
41	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
42	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
43	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
44	30	31					

November 2023							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
44			1	2	3	4	5
45	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
46	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
47	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
48	27	28	29	30			

December 2023							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
48					1	2	3
49	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
50	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
51	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
52	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
3	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
4	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
5	29	30	31				

February 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
5				1	2	3	4
6	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
7	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9	26	27	28	29			

March 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
9					1	2	3
10	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
12	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
13	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

April 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
14	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
17	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
18	29	30					

May 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
18			1	2	3	4	5
19	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
20	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
21	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
22	27	28	29	30	31		

June 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
22						1	2
23	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
24	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
26	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

July 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
27	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
28	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
29	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
30	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
31	29	30	31				

Denotes Bank holidays

Denotes School holiday dates

195 days – including up to 5 days to be taken

School calendar 2024/25

August 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
31				1	2	3	4
32	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
33	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
34	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
35	26	27	28	29	30	31	

September 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
35							1
36	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
37	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
38	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
39	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
40	30						

October 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
40		1	2	3	4	5	6
41	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
42	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
43	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
44	28	29	30	31			
45							

November 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
44					1	2	3
45	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
46	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
47	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
48	25	26	27	28	29	30	

December 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
48							1
49	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
50	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
51	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
52	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
1	30	31					

January 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1			1	2	3	4	5
2	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
3	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
4	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
5	27	28	29	30	31		

February 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
5						1	2
6	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9	24	25	26	27	28		

March 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
9						1	2
10	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
12	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
13	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
14	31						

April 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
14		1	2	3	4	5	6
15	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
18	28	29	30				

May 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
18				1	2	3	4
19	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
22	26	27	28	29	30	31	

June 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
22							1
23	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
24	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
27	30						

July 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
27		1	2	3	4	5	6
28	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
29	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
31	28	29	30	31			

Denotes Bank holidays

Denotes School holiday dates

195 days – including up to 5 days to be taken

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