

REPORT TO: Education Committee

MEETING DATE: 30 September 2014

BY: Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services)

SUBJECT: School Session Dates (2015/16)

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to obtain the Committee's approval for School Session dates for 2015/2016.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:
- (i) Approve the school session dates for 2015/2016 as outlined in Appendix 1.
 - (ii) Authorise me to notify Head Teachers, Teachers' Associations, Heads of Establishments and Parent Councils.
 - (iii) Authorise me to notify the Scottish Government Education Department.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In preparing the school session dates for 2015/2016 the following points were taken into consideration: -
- 190 pupil and 195 staff days which is in accordance with the Schools General (Scotland) Regulations 1975 (as amended);
 - A fixed one week break in the third week of October;
 - The school session ending before the first full week of July
 - 5 fixed in-service days; and
 - Flexibility with the Easter break to allow for a natural end to Term 2.

2015/2016 SESSION

- 3.2 In preparing the School Session Dates for 2015/2016 the five points in 3.1 were taken into account as outlined in the attached draft proposed dates (Appendix 1).

- 3.3 Discussion took place with City of Edinburgh Council and Midlothian Council in an attempt to completely align the dates across the three local authority areas. Unfortunately this was not achieved however, in the main, the October, Easter and summer holidays align, with only the Christmas break starting and ending slightly later in Edinburgh and in-service days being different in each authority.
- 3.4 Consultation also took place with Head Teachers, Teachers' Associations, UNISON, Educational Establishments, Parent Councils and the wider community through the Council's Consultation Hub.
- 3.5 The Department received a total of 134 responses to the consultation. 130 responses were from individuals and 4 responses were from groups i.e. staff within a school/Parent Councils.
- 3.6 The responses to the consultation can be categorised into four main areas (ranked in order of most responses):
- Session dates should mirror City of Edinburgh Council session dates.
 - Session dates should mirror both City of Edinburgh Council and Midlothian Council session dates.
 - East Lothian Council should set its own session dates independently.
 - Session dates should mirror Midlothian Council session dates.
- 3.7 The Department has taken cognisance of the responses received from the consultation and acknowledged the fact that Midlothian Council's and City of Edinburgh Council's October break is the same week, commencing 12 October 2015. As a result we have moved East Lothian's October break to align with our neighbouring authorities (see Appendix 1 for approval).
- 3.8 In summary, the session dates in East Lothian align with Midlothian Council's session dates other than in-service days and in the main with City of Edinburgh Council session dates, the exceptions being a two day later start in August 2015 for East Lothian; a two day earlier finish/return at Christmas for East Lothian, an in-service day following the February week in East Lothian which is held in May in Edinburgh, a spring Monday holiday in Edinburgh but not in East Lothian, and a one day later finish in East Lothian at the end of session.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None.

5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 This report is not applicable to the well being of equalities groups and an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial - None
6.2 Personnel - None
6.3 Other - None

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Appendix 1 – draft school session dates 2015/16.

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DATE	4 September 2014

**EAST LoTHIAN COUNCIL
RESOURCES AND PEOPLE SERVICES
DRAFT SCHOOL SESSION DATES 2015/16 (FOR APPROVAL)**

TERM 1	Staff In-service Day 1	Monday	17	August	2015
	Staff In-service Day 2	Tuesday	18	August	2015
	Pupils Resume	Wednesday	19	August	2015
	Autumn Holiday (schools closed)	Friday	18	September	2015
	Autumn Holiday (schools closed)	Monday	21	September	2015
	All Return	Tuesday	22	September	2015
	All Break	Friday	9	October	2015
	Staff In-service Day 3	Monday	19	October	2015
	Pupils Resume	Tuesday	20	October	2015
	Term Ends	Friday	18	December	2015
TERM 2	All Resume	Tuesday	5	January	2016
	All Break	Friday	12	February	2016
	Staff In-service Day 4	Monday	22	February	2016
	Pupils Resume	Tuesday	23	February	2016
	All Break	Thursday	24	March	2016
	Good Friday – 25 March 2016 Easter Monday – 28 March 2016				
TERM 3	All Resume (Staff and Pupils)	Monday	11	April	2016
	May Day (Schools closed)	Monday	2	May	2016
	All Resume	Tuesday	3	May	2016
	Staff In-service Day 5 (pupils off)	Monday	23	May	2016
	Pupils Resume	Tuesday	24	May	2016
	Term Ends	Friday	1	July	2016
Provisional 2016/17					
	Staff Resume	Monday	15	August	2016