

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker	Executive Member for Education
Date:	21 February 2023
Title:	School Term and Holiday Dates for 2024/25
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Executive Member for Education on the need to decide the pattern of school term and holiday dates for the school year 2024/25 and to note the outcomes of the consultation process that has been followed.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that the Executive Member for Education approves the school term and holiday dates that are supported by representative members of Hampshire County Council's (HCC) Conditions of Service Working Party (CoSWoP) and are set out in Appendix 2 of the report, for the school year 2024/25.

Executive Summary

3. This report informs the Executive Lead Member for Education on the need to decide the pattern of school term and holiday dates for the school year 2024/25 and recommends the term and holiday dates that have been subject to the consultation process.

Contextual information

4. It is the responsibility of a local authority to schedule a school year which provides the statutory 190 pupil days (380 sessions) and 195 teacher days in voluntary controlled and community schools. The structure for delivering this entitlement has been the subject of national and local debate for many years.
5. Unusually in the 2021/22 academic year, there were only 194 teacher days and 189 pupil days, with an additional bank holiday for HM Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee. To give effect to this, central government amended the Education (School Day and School Year) (England) Regulations to reduce the

school year 2021/22 to a minimum of 189 days. In the 2022/23 academic year, there will only be 193 teacher days and 188 pupil days, with additional bank holidays for HM Queen Elizabeth II's funeral and for HM King Charles III's coronation. Schools were advised in September by the DfE that the minimum number of sessions would be reduced via regulations to allow schools to close for the funeral, and schools have been advised by the DfE that they should close on the day of the coronation which has been confirmed for Monday 8 May 2023.

6. The Local Government Association (LGA) National Standing Committee on the School Year has, in the past, been active in seeking to establish a National School Year but this process has now ended.
7. Hampshire teachers' professional associations, represented by the Conditions of Service Working Party (CoSWoP), have worked closely with officers of the local authority over several years to secure an agreed approach to setting dates for the county's schools.
8. Children benefit from good attendance in school; in particular it supports educational achievement and lays the foundation for a positive contribution to society and economic well-being. Properly structured periods of learning and rest help children to remain healthy, enjoy their school time and achieve more. The publication of dates well in advance enables families to plan holidays and arrange childcare so that school attendance need not be compromised.

Finance

9. There are no financial implications.

Consultation and Equalities

10. Schools were invited to comment on their preferred pattern of dates via a Schools' Communication dated 7 November 2022, comments being required by 6 January 2023. The comments are provided below in Appendix 1. Comments were provided by four schools. Of these comments, it is acknowledged that the eight week half term at the start of the autumn term is long, but it is the most appropriate way to ensure two full weeks and three weekends for staff across the Christmas break. Regrettably, to move the May half term to 2 – 6 June would interfere with year 11 GCSE exams. In turn, moving the second week of the Easter holidays back a week, would then mean a very short Summer Term 1. Regarding the midweek finish at the end of the academic year, this is not unusual and the academic year 2023-24 will also be concluding on a Tuesday. Therefore, all comments were considered, but on balance the proposed term dates issued as part of the consultation were not adjusted as it was considered they provided the best balance overall.

Climate Change Impact Assessment

11. The decision for this report is to confirm the calendar that will apply to the School Year 2024/25. It applies the usual restrictions of 195 days for teacher attendance and 190 days of pupil attendance (380 sessions in the school year). The carbon mitigation tool and/or climate change adaptation tool was not applicable because the decision to be made is strategic/administrative in nature.

Conclusions

12. The proposed pattern, in Appendix 2, is recommended to the Executive Member for Education as accepted by the schools and best meeting the requirements that are applied to designing the school year for 2024/25.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	Yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	Yes

Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	
Working Together to Improve School Attendance Guidance The Education Act 2002 - section 32 The Education Act 1996 – section 551(1) The Education (School Day and School Year) (England) Regulations 1999	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents	
<p>The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)</p>	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

The school year will apply to all voluntary controlled and community schools. It will form the basis for the school year in Hampshire academies, foundation and voluntary aided schools (which are able to set their own school year). It is also utilised by sixth form providers. The setting of the school year has a neutral impact for all the protected characteristic groups and other policy consideration groups.

Appendix 1:

Consultation Comments:

School 1

“We have canvassed views from our staff and the comments we have received back are:

It seems like a good structure to me, starting the school year on a Monday; finishing the first term quite close to Christmas

The first half-term is 8 weeks, which could be a killer”

School 2

Hello,

Could we please feed in that we think the half term holiday at the end of May 2025 should be from 2-6th June. This would then make Summer 1 six weeks and Summer 2 six weeks. We feel to have a seven-week term at the end of the year in what could be extreme heat conditions is unsafe for small children and very hard on staff. We feel that a five-week term is too short in Summer 1 and that six-week terms are just right.

I imagine you have decided that to keep the bank holiday in a half term week but that is a high price to pay for a very long Summer 2 term. So many schools found that their buildings were not fit for purpose in extreme heat as they do not have controlled air-con, shady areas on the grounds, shelters outside classrooms. Climate change is real and very, very likely to happen again year on year.

School 3

From our perspective we would avoid the two odd days left at the end of July by playing with the Easter holiday. Move that a week later and start a bit earlier an then we could finish at the end of a whole week in July.

School 4

We feel that Finishing with 2 days at the end of term in July will impact significantly on pupil attendance.

As a school we would prefer to start later in September and finish later in July.

Appendix 2:

SEPTEMBER 2024					
M	26	2*	9	16	23
T	27	3	10	17	24
W	28	4	11	18	25
T	29	5	12	19	26
F	30	6	13	20	27
S	31	7	14	21	28
S	1	8	15	22	29

OCTOBER 2024					
M	30		7	14	21 28
T		1	8	15	22 29
W		2	9	16	23 30
T		3	10	17	24 31
F		4	11	18	25
S		5	12	19	26
S		6	13	20	27

NOVEMBER 2024					
M		4	11	18	25
T		5	12	19	26
W		6	13	20	27
T		7	14	21	28
F	1	8	15	22	29
S	2	9	16	23	30
S	3	10	17	24	

DECEMBER 2024					
M		2	9	16	23
T		3	10	17	24
W		4	11	18	25
T		5	12	19	26
F		6	13	20*	27
S		7	14	21	28
S	1	8	15	22	29

JANUARY 2025					
M	30		6*	13	20 27
T	31		7	14	21 28
W		1	8	15	22 29
T		2	9	16	23 30
F		3	10	17	24 31
S		4	11	18	25
S		5	12	19	26

FEBRUARY 2025					
M		3	10	17	24
T		4	11	18	25
W		5	12	19	26
T		6	13	20	27
F		7	14	21	28
S	1	8	15	22	
S	2	9	16	23	

MARCH 2025					
M		3	10	17	24
T		4	11	18	25
W		5	12	19	26
T		6	13	20	27
F		7	14	21	28
S	1	8	15	22	29
S	2	9	16	23	30

APRIL 2025					
M	31		7	14	21 28
T		1	8	15	22* 29
W		2	9	16	23 30
T		3	10	17	24
F		4*	11	18	25
S		5	12	19	26
S		6	13	20	27

MAY 2025					
M		5	12	19	26
T		6	13	20	27
W		7	14	21	28
T	1	8	15	22	29
F	2	9	16	23	30
S	3	10	17	24	31
S	4	11	18	25	

JUNE 2025					
M		2	9	16	23
T		3	10	17	24
W		4	11	18	25
T		5	12	19	26
F		6	13	20	27
S		7	14	21	28
S	1	8	15	22	29

JULY 2025					
M	30		7	14	21 28
T		1	8	15	22* 29
W		2	9	16	23 30
T		3	10	17	24 31
F		4	11	18	25
S		5	12	19	26
S		6	13	20	27

AUGUST 2025					
M		4	11	18	25
T		5	12	19	26
W		6	13	20	27
T		7	14	21	28
F	1	8	15	22	29
S	2	9	16	23	30
S	3	10	17	24	31

Bank and Public Holidays 2024/25

Christmas Day	25 December 2024	Easter Monday	21 April 2025
Boxing Day	26 December 2024	May Day Holiday	05 May 2025
New Year's Day	01 January 2025	Spring Bank Holiday	26 May 2025
Good Friday	18 April 2025	Summer Bank Holiday	25 August 2025

- * First day after break School Holidays Bank Holidays and National Holidays
- # Last day before break

Autumn Term 2024 starts on Monday 2 September 2024 and ends on Friday 20 December 2024 (Half term from Monday 28 October to Friday 1 November 2024)

Spring Term 2025 starts on Monday 6 January 2025 and ends on Friday 4 April 2025 (Half term from Monday 17 February to Friday 21 February 2025)

Summer Term 2025 starts on Tuesday 22 April 2025 and ends on Tuesday 22 July 2025 (Half term from Monday 26 May to Friday 30 May 2025)

Term	Start date	End Date
Autumn 2024	2 September 2024	20 December 2024
	Half term 28 October – 1 November 2024	
Spring 2025	6 January 2025	4 April 2025
	Half term 17 February - 21 February 2025	
Summer 2025	22 April 2025	22 July 2025
	Half term 26 May – 30 May 2025	

Please note that the dates as published are correct.

It has now been agreed and confirmed that 2 September 2024 is the start date for the Autumn Term 2024/25.

Please also note that the first day of the Autumn Term in September 2025 will not be determined until the 2025/26 timetable has been consulted upon and approved in February 2024.