

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
Date:	28 February 2022
Title:	School term and holiday dates for 2023/24
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 Lead Member for Children's Services on the need to decide the pattern of school term and holiday dates for school year 2023/24 and to note the outcomes of the consultation process that has been followed.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services 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 2023/24.

Executive Summary

3. This report informs the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services on the need to decide the pattern of school term and holiday dates for school year 2023/24 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 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. 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.
6. 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 in order to secure an agreed approach to setting dates for the county's schools.
7. 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

8. There are no financial implications.

Consultation and Equalities

9. Schools were invited to comment on their preferred pattern of dates via a Schools' Communication dated 16 November 2021, comments being required by 15 January 2022. The comments are provided below in Appendix 1. Comments were provided by eight schools. These were considered, but on balance the proposed term dates were not adjusted as it was considered they provided the best balance overall.

Climate Change Impact Assessment

10. The decision for this report is to confirm the calendar that will apply to the School Year 2023/24. It applies the usual restrictions of 195 days for teacher attendance and 190 days of pupil attendance. It does not have any climate change considerations.

Conclusions

11. The proposed pattern, in Appendix 2, is recommended to the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services as accepted by the schools and best meeting the requirements that are applied to designing the school year for 2023/24

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:	No
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	Yes

Other Significant Links

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

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.)

Document

Location

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:

School A:

My comments are that the Easter break should commence from 22nd of March , come back on 8th of April. Silly to do a 4 day week when Good Friday occurs. Lose the whole week and come back a week earlier.

School B:

Just to confirm we agree with the plan as per school communication SC019361

School C:

I am responding to (SC019361) School Term and Holidays pattern 2023/24. After consultation with my SLT team, we would prefer that term started on 4th Sept and the working day of the 1st Sept 2023 be moved to 24th July 2024 and added to the Summer term. This gives a better introduction to the beginning of the school year for teachers.

School D:

The Governing Body of XXXXXXXX have the following views and suggestions on the proposed calendar:

- The 1st September start date as one individual day is not supportive of school attendance or operationally helpful.
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- The school year ending 24th July with only two days this week is also not going to encourage attendance. Our suggestion would be to lengthen this week and have children start the school year later in September 2024 instead.
- The school year has been moving earlier and earlier each year in September and this is not welcome. It would be more beneficial to start from 4th September onwards, as is usual, and for the summer term to be a few days longer. This would also encourage attendance through fuller start or finishing weeks. This would also improve staff wellbeing impacted by these dates.
- The Christmas holiday end date is less than ideal for families. A suggestion would be to start the school year on 4th September, with Christmas being moved back and the returning January date being at least one day later.

School E:

Having reviewed the school comms about the suggested dates for the 2023-24 terms we would like to suggest that possibly it would be better to start the spring term on Weds 3rd January and then finish the summer term on Weds 24th July.

School F:

I have asked my staff for their opinions and the issue raised was that the 2 Jan is very early to come back after Christmas break. I can see that it has been taken as two full weeks which means the staff benefit from three weekends,

however - and this is probably better than having the Aut term finish later and end up with only two weekends actually in the holidays.

It would also be better if possible to not break up for the summer on a Tuesday. Lots of families potentially would see those last two days as 'not mattering' and booking to go away and miss them, possibly. I do not know that there is an easy solution though.

School G:

I have consulted my staff who would like me to send in a couple of changes to consider.

Break up 19/12/23 and come back to school on 4/1/24

or

Break up 19/12/23 and break up 19/7/24

or

Start back 4/9/23 but break up 24/7/24

Thank you for considering these options

School H:

I know this isn't just related to 2023/24, but it seemed an opportunity to have our say.

Having discussed this with my team, we are in agreement that returning to school on a Friday (or Thursday) in September is always highly impractical. It makes no sense.

Almost all schools want to hold an INSET day, for safeguarding, at the beginning of term. We would also hope not to have the children in for 5 days in the first week, as there is always a period of adjustment for the children and five days exhausts them.

At [REDACTED], would prefer to finish later in the summer and start back either on a Mon, Tues or Wed in any new school year for the well-being of the children and staff.

Appendix 2:

SEPTEMBER 2023					
M	28	4	11	18	25
T	29	5	12	19	26
W	30	6	13	20	27
T	31	7	14	21	28
F	1	8	15	22	29
S	2	9	16	23	30
S	3	10	17	24	

OCTOBER 2023					
M		2	9	16	23 30
T		3	10	17	24 31
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

NOVEMBER 2023				
M		6	13	20 27
T		7	14	21 28
W	1	8	15	22 29
T	2	9	16	23 30
F	3	10	17	24
S	4	11	18	25
S	5	12	19	26

DECEMBER 2023					
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	

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

FEBRUARY 2024				
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	
S	3	10	17 24	
S	4	11	18 25	

MARCH 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 31	

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

MAY 2024				
M		6	13 20 27	
T		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	

JUNE 2024					
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	

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

AUGUST 2024				
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	

Bank and Public Holidays 2023/24

Christmas Day	25 December 2023	Easter Monday	1 April 2024
Boxing Day	26 December 2023	May Day Holiday	6 May 2024
New Year's Day	1 January 2024	Spring Bank Holiday	27 May 2024
Good Friday	29 March 2024	Summer Bank Holiday	26 August 2024

* First day after break



School Holidays



Bank Holidays and National Holidays

Last day before break

Autumn Term 2023 starts on Friday 1st September 2023 and ends on Friday 15 December 2023

(Half term from Monday 23 October to Friday 27 October 2023)

Spring Term 2024 starts on Tuesday 2 January 2024 and ends on Thursday 28 March 2024

(Half term from Monday 12 February to Friday 16 February 2024)

Summer Term 2024 starts on Monday 15 April 2024 and ends on Tuesday 23 July 2024

(Half term from Monday 27 May to Friday 31 May 2024)

Term	Start date	End Date
Autumn 2023	1 September 2023	15 December 2023
	Half term 23 October - 27 October 2023	
Spring 2024	2 January 2024	28 March 2024
	Half term 12 February - 16 February 2024	
Summer 2024	15 April 2024	23 July 2024
	Half term 27 May – 31 May 2024	

Please note that the dates as published are correct.

It has now been agreed and confirmed that 1 September 2023 is the start date for the Autumn Term 2023/24.

Please also note that the first day of the Autumn Term in September 2024 will not be determined until the 2024/25 timetable has been consulted upon and approved in 2023.