

TITLE OF REPORT: School Term Dates 2023/24

REPORT OF: Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive

Purpose of the Report

1. The report asks Cabinet to approve the School Term Dates for 2023/24

Background

2. In order to allow schools, parents and other stakeholders to plan into the future, it is necessary to agree school term dates a significant period in advance.

Proposal

3. It is proposed that the calendar for 2023/24, attached as appendix 2 to this report, be approved.

Recommendations

4. It is recommended that Cabinet agrees the School Term Dates for 2023/24 as set out in appendix 2, for the following reasons:
 - (i) To allow future planning to take place.
 - (ii) To make effective and efficient use of resources.

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APPENDIX 1

Policy Context

1. This proposal supports the Council's strategic approach of Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives.

Background

2. The Education (School Day and School Year) (England) Regulations 1999 (SI 1999 No. 3181) require schools to have at least 380 half-day sessions (190 contact days with pupils) and (195 days for staff) in each school year. This is consistent with the 195 days a year required by a teacher's statutory conditions of service: the additional five days are for continual professional development. The term dates for Community Voluntary controlled and Special Schools are determined by the Local Authority (LA) whilst voluntary-aided schools and Academies are decided by the governing body of each school. This means that Governing Bodies of Voluntary Aided schools and Academies can depart from the LA term dates if they wish. Many Voluntary Aided schools can and do depart from those dates determined by the LA and there is no requirement to consult the LA, however, such schools are required to act reasonably when setting their dates.

Given the continuing development of the DfE Academy conversion process it is possible that some schools may develop and determine different term date calendars following changes to their school status. Whenever possible any such changes will be published by the LA.

3. The Local Government Association (LGA) Standing Committee on the School Year have previously circulated proposed School Term Calendar with a view to encouraging local authorities towards a degree of standardisation of dates. This is based on the following principles:
 - Start the school year on a September date as near as possible to 1 September.
 - Equalise teaching and learning blocks (roughly 2x7 and 4x6 weeks).
 - Establish a two-week spring break in early April irrespective of the incidence of the Easter Bank Holiday. (Where the break does not coincide with the Bank Holiday the date should be, as far as practicable, nationally agreed and as consistent as possible across all local authorities.)
 - Allow for the possibility of a summer holiday of at least six weeks for those schools which want this length of break.
 - Identify and agree annually designated periods of holiday, including the summer holiday, where Head Teachers are recommended not to arrange teaching days.
5. The proposed term dates in appendix 2 are the same as neighbouring LAs to ensure a degree of consistency across the region.
6. The proposal starts the term on the 4th September 2023, which avoids broken school weeks and is in line with the term dates for all other LAs. This also fixes the spring bank holiday in line with the LGA strategy, establishing a two-week spring break in early April which also covers two bank holidays. It allows 2 CPD days in term time requiring the 3 remaining training days to be completed as twilight sessions. It is important to achieve, as near as possible, a match with neighbouring LAs. Parents resident in Gateshead and

who work in other LAs or have children in other LA schools and vice versa can make better arrangements for their childcare and give regard to a wide range of personal and domestic requirements. Conflicting dates also work against the effective and efficient use of resources between LAs when collaborating on joint events or on the delivery of truancy sweeps.

Consultation

7. The proposed dates have been shared with other local authorities in the region, Gateshead Head Teachers, Teachers' JCC membership, Unison, GMB and other representatives, the Diocesan Bodies and the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

Alternative Options

8. In theory there are many options that can facilitate arriving at a school term calendar which allocates 190 teaching (contact with pupil) days and 5 continued professional development days. Normally it is not viewed helpful to develop what could result in a broad range of choices, as it is contrary to the principle of trying to achieve a degree of regional and national alignment.

Implications of Recommended Option

9. Resources

- a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms that there are no financial implications as a result of this report.
- b) **Human Resources Implications** - advance notice of school term dates enables parents and other stakeholders to consider a broad range of domestic and personal arrangements.
- c) **Property Implications** - None

10. **Risk Management Implication** - None.

11. Equality and Diversity Implications –

Every effort is made in setting dates to take account of holiday requirements created and a result of faith.

12. Crime and Disorder Implications -

Evidence does show the potential for an increase in youth crime and disorder and antisocial behaviour during periods when young people are not in school. The Council seeks to address this 'risk' by collaborating with partners to offer activity programmes during common holiday periods.

13. **Health Implications** - None

14. **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications** – None.

15 **Human Rights Implications** – None.

16. **Ward Implications** – None.

17. **Background Information-**

The Education (School Day and School Year) (England) regulations 1999(SI 1999 No 3181)

Term and Holiday Dates


Gateshead Draft A term dates 2023-24


193 TERM DAY ENVELOPE

	AUGUST 2023	SEPTEMBER 2023	OCTOBER 2023	NOVEMBER 2023	DECEMBER 2023	JANUARY 2024
Monday	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29
Tuesday	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30
Wednesday	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24 31
Thursday	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25
Friday	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26
Saturday	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27
Sunday	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28

	FEBRUARY 2024	MARCH 2024	APRIL 2024	MAY 2024	JUNE 2024	JULY 2024
Monday	5 12 19 26	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29
Tuesday	6 13 20 27	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30
Wednesday	7 14 21 28	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31
Thursday	1 8 15 22 29	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25
Friday	2 9 16 23	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26
Saturday	3 10 17 24	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27
Sunday	4 11 18 25	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28

	AUGUST 2024	SEPTEMBER 2024
Monday	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30
Tuesday	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24
Wednesday	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25
Thursday	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26
Friday	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27
Saturday	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28
Sunday	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29

 School Holidays

 Bank Holidays

The number of term days shown is 193. Schools need to keep 1 day back from the 193 above until late in the summer term for possible election purposes leaving 192 days in term. Schools will therefore need to identify 2 PD days from the term dates above and need to determine a further 3 PD days from twilight sessions or designated holidays. (Pupils must be taught for 190 days (380 sessions))