



## Cabinet

Date: 16 March 2022

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### School Calendar 2023/24 Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools

Director of Children's Services

Cabinet Portfolio/Lead Member: Children, Young People and Families  
Cllr A Ellison

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#### **Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of the report is to seek agreement to the school calendar for 2023/24 for all community and voluntary controlled schools in South Tyneside.

## **Introduction**

2. As part of an ongoing effort to harmonise the school calendar across the northern area, officers from neighbouring and regional Local Authorities have been involved in discussions about the formulation of a single calendar for the academic year 2023/24.
3. North Tyneside and Newcastle are seeking approval of the same term dates. Gateshead and Sunderland have not yet shared their proposals.

## **Consultation**

4. The consultation exercise involved seeking views from a wide range of stakeholders, including schools, chairs of governors, trade unions, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle and the Church of England Diocese of Durham.
5. One response was received during the consultation period from St Wilfrid's RC which advised that they were unable to comment on the Local Authority proposals because they had not received guidance from the RC Diocese.

## **Financial and Value for Money Implications**

6. There are no financial or value for money implications.

## **Legal Implications**

7. It is a statutory duty of the Council to set the calendar for community and voluntary controlled schools. All other schools, through their Governing Boards, are able to determine their own pattern for the academic year, although in South Tyneside schools will be encouraged to follow the Council's calendar as far as days of religious observance will allow.

## **Risk Implications**

8. If the Council does not set a calendar for the schools for which it is responsible, then it will have failed to discharge one of its statutory responsibilities. It is always possible that, despite a consensus among officers from neighbouring authorities on preferred patterns of arranging academic year calendars, local requirements may lead to some departures from the agreed preferred models.

## **Equality and Diversity Implications**

9. The Equality Act 2010 requires public bodies to have due regard to eliminate discrimination, advance equality and to foster good relations.

10. Consultation on the draft school calendar for the academic year 2023/24 has involved key stakeholders and the nature of these groups make certain equality and diversity issues are represented to ensure fair and equal treatment of pupils and staff in South Tyneside Schools.

### **Environmental and Sustainability Implications**

11. There are no environmental and sustainability implications.

### **Options to be considered**

12. No other options are to be considered.

### **Recommendations**

13. It is recommended that Cabinet:
- (a) Adopt the calendar for the academic year 2023/24, as attached, in Appendix 1 for all community and voluntary controlled schools and authorise the Director of Children's Services to publish the document accordingly.
  - (b) Request that all other schools within South Tyneside follow, as far as is possible, the Council's calendar when determining their individual school calendars for 2023/24.

### **Reasons for Recommendations**

14. The Council must determine the calendars annually for all community and voluntary controlled schools and endeavours to collaborate with neighbouring Local Authorities in order to achieve the maximum level of consistency. For the sake of uniformity across the Council, other schools will be asked to follow as closely as possible the calendar published for community and voluntary controlled schools.

**SOUTH TYNESIDE COUNCIL**  
**DATES OF TERMS AND HOLIDAYS FOR 2023/24**

<b><u>SCHOOL TERMS</u></b>	<b><u>NO. OF DAYS</u></b>	<b><u>SCHOOL HOLIDAYS</u></b>	<b><u>NO. OF DAYS</u></b>
<b><u>Autumn Term 2023</u></b>		<b>Mid -Term</b>	
Monday 4 September to Friday 27 October	40	Monday 30 October to Friday 3 November	5
Monday 6 November to Friday 22 December	35	<b><u>Christmas Holiday</u></b> Monday 25 December to Friday 5 January	10
<b><u>Spring Term 2024</u></b>		<b>Mid-Term</b>	
Monday 8 January to Friday 16 February	30	Monday 19 February to Friday 23 February	5
Monday 26 February to Thursday 28 March	24	<b><u>Easter Holiday</u></b> Friday 29 March to Friday 12 April	11
<b><u>Summer Term 2024</u></b>		<b>May Day</b>	
Monday 15 April to Friday 24 May	29	Monday 6 May	1
Monday 3 June to Friday 19 July	35	<b><u>Spring Holiday</u></b> Monday 27 May to Friday 31 May	5
Total School Days	193		

**Proposal for the start of Autumn Term 2024 is Monday 2 September 2024.**

**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 Professional Development days from the term dates above and need to determine a further 3 Professional Development days from twilight sessions or designated holidays. (Pupils must be taught for 190 days (380 sessions))**

## School Calendar: 2023/24 Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools

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The following is a list of the background papers (excluding exempt papers) relied upon in the preparation of the above report:

Background Paper	File Ref:	File Location