

Report

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Report to:	Education Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	13 September 2011
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	School Holiday Dates for Session 2012/2013
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise on the proposed dates for school holidays in South Lanarkshire for session 2012/2013 following a consultation with stakeholders.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the proposed dates for school holidays in South Lanarkshire for session 2012/2013, as detailed in Appendix 1, be approved.

3. Background

- 3.1. Children are required to attend school for 190 days with teachers working 195 days, five of which are deemed in-service days.
- 3.2. The school holiday dates normally fall within 3 terms and take account of national/local public holiday dates,
 - Term 1 - from the beginning of the school year in August until Christmas;
 - Term 2 - from the new year through until the spring break; *
 - Term 3 - from after the spring break until the end of the school year in June.
- 3.3. In 2012/2013,* the Good Friday (29 March) and Easter Monday (1 April) holiday dates fall within the Spring break which takes place in the first two weeks in April.
- 3.4. Views were sought from a range of stakeholders on the proposed school holiday dates for 2012/2013 including neighbouring local authorities to try and achieve, where possible, a common pattern of school holiday dates across Lanarkshire for the benefit of parents and schools.
- 3.5. Arrangements were made also to consult with establishments, Parent Councils and employees through the Joint Negotiating and Consultative Committee (JNCC) for teachers and the Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) for Administrative, Professional, Technical and Local Government employees.

4. Consultation Outcome

- 4.1. The outcome of the consultation with establishments, parents, Parent Councils and other stakeholders, that resulted in 584 responses being made to this particular part of the consultation, is as follows:

School Holiday Dates 2012/2013		
Total number of responses		
The consultation asked do you agree with the proposed school holiday dates for:-	Agree	Disagree
Term 1 (August – Christmas)	174 (88.3%)	23 (11.7%)
Term 2 (New Year – Spring Break)	157 (81.8%)	35 (18.2%)
Term 3 (Spring Break – June)	162 (83.1%)	33 (16.9%)
The JNCC for teachers and the JCC for APT&C employees agreed with the proposed dates for 2012/2013.		

- 4.2 Last year there was no clear consensus of opinion on whether St Andrew's Day should be designated as a school holiday. Many commented that children and young people benefit more by actively engaging in meaningful activities to celebrate St Andrew's Day in school. It is proposed to continue to gauge the views of parents, schools and other stakeholders on this proposal over the coming year.

5. Proposal

- 5.1. Of the stakeholders consulted, the majority agreed with the proposed holiday dates. It is proposed, therefore, that the pattern for the school holidays for the 2012/2013 session, as highlighted in Appendix 1, be adopted. The arrangements set out are generally in line with neighbouring authorities.
- 5.2. Teachers will return to two in-service days (Monday 12 August 2012 and Tuesday, 13 August 2012) with the remaining 3 in-service days agreed locally following consultation with schools and trades unions. Pupils return on Wednesday 14 August 2013.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. None

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. None

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. There are no significant risk implications in terms of the information contained within this report.
- 8.2. There are no implications for sustainability in terms of the information contained within this report.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. An equality impact assessment has been carried out on the recommendations contained in the report and, where issues were identified, remedial action has been taken. The assessment is that the proposals do not have any adverse impact on any part of the community covered by equalities legislation, or on community relations, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council website.

9.2. Consultation has taken place with a range of stakeholders, including the Trades Unions and Parent Councils.

Larry Forde
Executive Director (Education Resources)

22 August 2011

Link(s) to Council Objectives/Improvement Themes/Values

- Raise Educational Attainment for All

Previous References

None

List of Background Papers

- Responses from Consultation Exercise

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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Education Resources

Draft School holiday Dates Session 2012/2013

Break	Holiday dates		
First Term	Teachers return	Monday	13 August 2012
	Pupils return	Wednesday	15 August 2012
September Weekend	Close	Thursday	20 September 2012
	Re-open	Tuesday	25 September 2012
October Break	Close on	Friday	12 October 2012 (43)
	Re-open	Monday	22 October 2012
Christmas	Close on	Friday	21 December 2012 (45)
	Re-open	Monday	7 January 2013
Second Term	Re-open	Monday	7 January 2013
February break	Close on	Friday	8 February 2013
	Re-open	Wednesday	13 February 2013
Third Term Spring break/Easter break	Close on	Thursday	28 March 2013 (57)
	Return	Monday	15 April 2013
Local Holiday	Closed	Monday	6 May 2013
Local Holiday	Close on	Thursday	23 May 2013
	Re-open on	Tuesday	28 May 2013
Summer break	Close on	Wednesday	26 June 2013 (50)
Proposed in-service days	*Proposed date for teachers return (subject to consultation)	Monday	12 August 2013
		Wednesday	14 August 2013

Notes

- ◆ Good Friday falls on Friday, 29 March 2013
- ◆ Lanark schools will close 6 and 7 June 2013
- ◆ Schools will close at 2.30pm on the last day of terms 1 and 2 (Friday, 21 December 2012 and Thursday, 28 March 2013)
- ◆ Schools will close at 1pm on the last day of term 3 (Wednesday 26 June 2013)
*Two in-service days proposed for Monday 12 August 2013 and Tuesday 13 August 2013