

**TO: EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING**  
**DMT: 3 March 2023**

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**TERM DATES FOR 2024/25  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PEOPLE**

**1 PURPOSE OF DECISION**

- 1.1 To set term dates for Bracknell Forest Community and Voluntary Controlled schools and to recommend these to voluntary aided or academy schools for possible adoption.
- 1.2 When considering Bracknell Forests term dates a great deal of time is invested in communicating with our neighbouring local authorities and making every effort to align dates as much as possible.
- 1.3 The majority of our neighbours have shared the dates they plan to consult on with the schools in their area, including Wokingham, Reading, RBWM and Bucks, and these match with the proposal from Bracknell Forest in this report. The outcomes of their consultations are not yet known.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **To approve term dates for the 2024/25 academic year set out in the attached Appendix 1.**
- 2.2 **To note that individual schools will set the remaining 4 inset days throughout the year.**

**3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Term dates are not set nationally.
- 3.2 It is a statutory requirement that the Local Authority set dates for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools.
- 3.3 Academies and Voluntary Aided schools are free to set their own term dates.

**4 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 4.1 It is a statutory requirement that there be 195 school days in an academic year, including 5 in-service training days for school staff. Various patterns of days are possible around the fixed points of Christmas, Easter and bank holidays, the inclination for terms lengths to be as equal as possible and holidays to be of a reasonable length to allow pupils and staff to rest and refresh.
- 4.2 In deciding dates the Local Authority considers dates being set in neighbouring authorities to avoid inconvenience to parents having children at schools in two different authorities, or where parents may work in a school in one authority but have children at a school in a different authority.

## 5 CONSULTATION

### Principal Groups Consulted

- 5.1 All Headteachers and neighbouring authorities were invited to comment.
- 5.2 Academies and aided schools have been copied into the consultation and were also invited to comment.

### Method of Consultation

- 5.3 By email and comments were invited.

### Representations Received

- 5.4 1 response to the consultation was received from the Headteacher of a Voluntary Controlled Bracknell Forest school. This was in support of the proposed dates.
- 5.5 No objections or concerns were received.

## 6 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

### Legal Advice

- 6.1 The relevant legal implications are addresses within the report.

### Executive Director: Resources

- 6.2 The Executive Director: Resources is satisfied that no significant financial implications arise from this report.

### Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 An initial screening has been completed.

### Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 Significant risks include:

ISSUE	RISK	COMMENT
Term Dates must be set across the borough for community and voluntary controlled schools to ensure all schools follow the same schooling dates	LOW	Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools may not comply with the compulsory schooling days per year.

Academy and Voluntary Aided schools	LOW	These schools do not have to comply with the dates set by the LA and can set their own dates which may not match that of the LA
Neighbouring Local Authority dates	MEDIUM	Neighbouring local authorities or admission authorities may determine different dates to that drafted and consulted on in Appendix 1 and could result in not matching that of Bracknell Forest dates.

Climate Change Implications

- 7.5 The recommendations above are expected to have no impact on emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>.

Background Papers

None

Contact for further information

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