School Session Dates for the Academic Year 2020/21

Report by Maria Lloyd, Acting Head of Education

1   Introduction

The authority is required to set school session dates each year with regard to statutory attendance. The purpose of this report is to obtain the agreement of Cabinet for the proposed session dates for the 2020/21 academic year.

2   Background

Consultation has been undertaken with the appropriate teaching unions, schools and Parent Councils to draw up a scheme of session dates for Midlothian schools for the academic year 2020/21. The proposed scheme is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

Officers from Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian Councils endeavour to ensure we synchronise session dates with our neighbouring council areas wherever possible bearing in mind some differences in local holidays.

City of Edinburgh has already consulted and published school session dates for 2020/21 and 2021/22, East Lothian propose to take their dates to their Education Committee in March, the 2020/21school session dates proposed for Midlothian have been set to align with these as far as possible.

The school session dates proposed for 2020/21 coincide with both Edinburgh and East Lothian on the timing of the return to school in August and on the timing of the October, Christmas, February and Easter breaks. The last day of the school session will be Thursday 1st July 2021 in Midlothian compared with Friday 2nd July in Edinburgh and East Lothian.

3   Report Implications

3.1   Resource

There are no resource issues arising from this report.

3.2   Risk

By aligning with neighbouring authorities risk implications are mitigated with regard to pupil attendance at school.

3.3   Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

☐ Community safety
☐ Adult health, care and housing
☐ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
☐ Sustainable growth
☐ Business transformation and Best Value
☒ None of the above

3.4   Impact on Performance and Outcomes

Session dates have been designed to maximise attendance by minimising the number of broken weeks for staff and pupils.

3.5   Adopting a Preventative Approach

Not applicable

3.6   Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

Discussions have been held with the appropriate teaching unions and school establishments and efforts have been made to synchronise session dates with the City of Edinburgh and East Lothian Council as far as possible.

3.7   Ensuring Equalities

The proposed report will have a neutral effect on equalities groups.

3.8   Supporting Sustainable Development

This proposal takes into account the need to deliver an educational service across Midlothian which anticipates and acknowledges the needs and views of stakeholders.

3.9   IT Issues

There are no IT issues arising from this report.

4   Recommendation

Cabinet is recommended to agree the school session dates for 2020/21 as set out in the attached appendix.

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Background Papers: Appendix 1 – School Session Dates 2020/2021

MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL

EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMY

SCHOOL SESSION DATES 2020 /21

TERM 1	Staff Resume	Monday **	17	August	2020
	Pupils Resume	Wednesday	19	August	2020
	Autumn Holiday	Friday	18	September	2020
		Monday	21	September	2020
Mid Term	All Break	Friday	16	October	2020
	Staff Resume	Monday*	26	October	2020
	Pupils Resume	Tuesday	27	October	2020
	Term Ends	Wednesday	23	December	2020
TERM 2	All Resume	Wednesday	6	January	2021
Mid Term	All Break	Friday	5	February	2021
	Staff Resume	Monday*	15	February	2021
	Pupils Resume	Tuesday	16	February	2021
	Term Ends	Thursday	1	April	2021
	Good Friday	*2nd April*			
	Easter Monday	*5th April*			
TERM 3	All Resume	Tuesday	20	April	2021
	May Day Holiday	Monday	3	May	2021
	Victoria Day	Monday*	24	May	2021
	Term Ends	Thursday	1	July	2021

* Staff In-Service Days: Monday 17th & Tuesday 18th August 2020, Monday 26th October 2020, Monday 15th February 2021 & Monday 24th May 2021