



Amendment to School Session Dates for the Academic Year 2019/20

Report by Dr Mary Smith, Director, Education, Communities and Economy

1 Introduction

The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of a change that has been made to the school session dates for the academic year 2019/20.

2 Background

School session dates for the academic year 2019/20 were approved by Cabinet on 10 April 2018. In the last few weeks of the last term of 2018/19 the Scottish Government informed us that they and the Westminster Government had agreed that the 2020 May Day Bank Holiday on Monday 4 May should move to Friday 8 May to coincide with the 75th anniversary of VE Day. They requested that Scottish Local Authorities would reflect this, if possible, in their 2019/2020 school session dates.

We as a council are closely linked to the armed forces and fully support and believe in paying due respect to those who fought and died for this country. So, although notice was short, officers in the Education Service considered there was enough time for parents to make alternative arrangements, so that our Communities would be not be adversely affected, if we informed them of the change immediately. We also believed that our Communities would support this decision.

By the time we received the request there was insufficient time to carry out consultation or to obtain approval from Cabinet or Council prior to informing schools and parents. We checked with City of Edinburgh Council, with whom we seek to align our school session dates, that they were making this change and they confirmed that they had agreed to this. So with the support of the Council Leader and Provost, we decided to make the change and to inform Cabinet subsequently.

The revised school dates for the academic year 2019/20 are in appendix 1 of this report.

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**

Not applicable.

3.5 **Adopting a Preventative Approach**

Not applicable

3.6 **Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders**

This revision to the 2019/20 school sessions dates has been communicated to schools' communities including union representatives.

3.7 **Ensuring Equalities**

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

3.8 **Supporting Sustainable Development**

Not applicable.

3.9 **IT Issues**

There are no IT issues arising from this report.

4 **Recommendation**

- Cabinet is recommended to note the revised school session dates for 2019/20 as set out in the attached Appendix.
- Endorse that Officers issue a FAQ to unions and staff to explain the decision and also to give guidance on any issues arising from this change of date.

Report Contact:

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Appendix 1 – School Session Dates 2019/20

MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL

EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMY

SCHOOL SESSION DATES 2019 /20

TERM 1	Staff Resume	Thursday **	15	August	2019
	Pupils Resume	Monday	19	August	2019
Mid Term	Autumn Holiday	Monday	16	September	2019
	All Break	Friday	11	October	2019
	Staff Resume	Monday*	21	October	2019
	Pupils Resume	Tuesday	22	October	2019
	Term Ends	Friday	20	December	2019
TERM 2	Staff Resume	Monday*	6	January	2020
	Pupils Resume	Tuesday	7	January	2020
Mid Term	All Break	Friday	7	February	2020
	All Resume	Monday	17	February	2020
	Term Ends	Friday	3	April	2020
	<i>Good Friday</i>	<i>10th April</i>			
	<i>Easter Monday</i>	<i>13th April</i>			
	All Resume	Monday	20	April	2020
TERM 3	May (VE) Day	Friday	8	May	2020
	All Resume	Monday	11	May	2020
	Victoria Day	Monday*	18	May	2020
	Term Ends	Friday	26	June	2020

*** Staff In-Service Days:** Thursday 15th & Friday 16th August 2019,
Monday 21st October 2019,
Monday 6th January 2020,
Monday 18th May 2020.