

School Session Dates for the Academic Year 2019/20**Report by Grace Vickers, Head of Education, Education, Communities & Economy****1 Introduction**

The authority is required to set school session dates each year with regard to statutory attendance.

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 2019/20. The proposed scheme for 2019/20 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.

Edinburgh have consulted on their session dates for 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22. They reported to their Education, Children and Families Committee on Tuesday 6 March 2018. They are returning on Monday 12 August with pupils returning on Wednesday 14 August. Midlothian will commence the 2019/20 academic session on Thursday 15 August, with pupils commencing on Monday 19 August.

The school session dates proposed for 2019/20 coincide with Edinburgh on the timing of the October, Christmas, February and Easter breaks and on the last day of the school session which will be Friday 26th June 2020. East Lothian have still to consult on their dates but indications are that their proposed dates coincide with the timings of the holidays stated above.

City of Edinburgh has already published school session dates for 2020/21 and Midlothian will undertake further consultation with the aim of maintaining alignment of school session dates for future years.

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 2019/20 as set out in the attached appendix.

Report Contact:

Sandra Banks

Tel No: 0131 271 3727

E-mail sandra.banks@midlothian.gov.uk

Background Papers:

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>12th April</i>			
	All Resume	Monday	20	April	2020
TERM 3	May Day	Monday	4	May	2020
	All Resume	Tuesday	5	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