

## **School Session Dates for the Academic Year 2018/19**

### **Report by Dr 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. This requirement is undertaken a year in advance of a school academic year and agreed with parents, teaching unions and council etc.

#### **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 2018/19. The proposed scheme for 2018/19 is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

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

Edinburgh has not yet published their session dates for 2018/19. They are anticipating tabling the report at 20 June 2017 Education Committee for 2018/19 only, these dates will be based on the criteria for the 2017/2018 session dates. They indicated a potential return date of 15 August 2018.

Midlothian will commence the 2018/19 academic session one day later than this proposed date, with pupils commencing on Monday 20 August 2018. A survey of staff and parents has been carried out on two options for school session dates for 2018/19. A total of 592 individual responses and were received. The proposed dates were preferred by a 79% majority of those who took part in the survey. The results have been agreed and accepted by MNCT and notification has been received by Council secretariat.

The school session dates proposed for 2018/19 coincide across the three authorities on the timing of the October, Christmas, February and Easter breaks and on the last day of the school session which will be Friday 28 June 2019.

Midlothian intends to undertake further consultation in the near future with the intention of achieving fuller alignment of school session dates for 2019/20 and 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 note the school session dates for 2018/19 as set out in the attached Appendix and agree to forward to Council, for noting purposes.

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**Background Papers:**

**Appendix 1 – School Session Dates 2018/19**

## MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL

## EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMY

## PROPOSED DAY SCHOOL SESSION DATES 2018 / 19

<b>TERM 1</b>	Staff Resume	Thursday **	16	August	2018
	Pupils Resume	Monday	20	August	2018
<b>Mid Term</b>	All Break	Friday	12	October	2018
	Staff Resume	Monday*	22	October	2018
	Pupils Resume	Tuesday	23	October	2018
	Term Ends	Friday	21	December	2018
<b>TERM 2</b>	Staff Resume	Monday*	7	January	2019
	Pupils Resume	Tuesday	8	January	2019
<b>Mid Term</b>	All Break	Friday	8	February	2019
	All Resume	Monday	18	February	2019
	Term Ends	Friday	5	April	2019
	<i>Good Friday</i>	<i>19<sup>th</sup> April</i>			
	<i>Easter Monday</i>	<i>22<sup>nd</sup> April</i>			
	All Resume	Tuesday	23	April	2019
<b>TERM 3</b>	May Day	Monday	6	May	2019
	All Resume	Tuesday	7	May	2019
	Victoria Day	Monday*	20	May	2019
	Term Ends	Friday	28	June	2019

\* **Staff In Service Days:** Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> & Friday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2018,  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018, Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January  
2019 & Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019

