

**School Session Dates for the Academic Year 2016/17****Report by Mary Smith, Director, Education, Communities and 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 2016/17. The proposed scheme for 2016/17 is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

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

Midlothian will commence the 2016/17 academic session three days later than Edinburgh, in line with the provisional start date for staff of 18<sup>th</sup> August 2016 which Council agreed last year. A survey of staff and parents has been carried out on two options for school session dates for 2016/17. A total of 388 individual responses and 4 group responses were received. The proposed dates were preferred by 60% of those who took part in the survey.

Midlothian will have a February break of one week for pupils and a break of three days for staff while Edinburgh and East Lothian will have a full week break for both staff and pupils in February 2017. This break will take place in the same week in February in all three authorities.

The school session dates proposed for 2016/17 coincide across the three authorities on the timing of the October, Christmas and Easter breaks and on the last day of the school session which will be Friday 30 June 2017.

Midlothian intends to undertake further consultation in the near future with the intention of achieving fuller alignment of school session dates for 2017/18 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**

As per 4.4 above.

#### **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 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**

Council is recommended to agree the school session dates for 2016/17 as set out in the attached appendix.

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Background Papers:

Appendix 1 – Day School Session Dates 2016/17

## MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL

## EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMY

## PROPOSED DAY SCHOOL SESSION DATES 2016 / 17

<b>TERM 1</b>	Staff Resume	Thursday*	18	August	2016
	Pupils Resume	Monday	22	August	2016
	Autumn Holiday	Friday	16	September	2016
		Monday	19	September	2016
	All Resume	Tuesday	20	September	2016
<b>Mid Term</b>	All Break	Friday	14	October	2016
	All Resume	Monday	24	October	2016
	Term Ends	Friday	23	December	2016
<b>TERM 2</b>	All Resume	Monday	9	January	2017
<b>Mid Term</b>	Pupils Break	Friday	10	February	2017
	Staff Break	Tuesday*	14	February	2017
	All Resume	Monday	20	February	2017
	All Break	Friday	31	March	2017
	<i>Good Friday</i>	<i>14<sup>th</sup> March</i>			
	<i>Easter Monday</i>	<i>17<sup>th</sup> April</i>			
<b>TERM 3</b>	All Resume	Tuesday	18	April	2017
	May Day	Monday	1	May	2017
	All Resume	Tuesday	2	May	2017
	Victoria Day	Monday*	22	May	2017
	Pupils Resume	Tuesday	23	May	2017
	Term Ends	Friday	30	June	2017

**\* Staff In Service Days:** Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> & Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2016  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2017  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017