

CABINET

DATE	14 th February 2024
REPORT OF	Councillor Margaret Cracknell, Portfolio Holder for Children and Education
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Ann-Marie Matson, Director of Children's Services
SUBJECT	School Term Dates 2025-2026
STATUS	Open
FORWARD PLAN REF NO.	CB 02/24/10

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS

A standardised school year for all voluntary controlled and community schools within the local authority will 'enable children and young people to learn and become employed'.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report sets out the proposed School Year for 2025-2026 for all voluntary controlled and community schools within the local authority.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Approves the proposed dates in Appendix A for voluntary controlled and community schools for the 2025–2026 academic year.
2. Authorises the Director for Children's Services to so implement and take all reasonable steps arising in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education.

REASONS FOR DECISION

The 1996 Education Act requires local authorities to determine school term dates annually. The proposal in Appendix A is recommended as this would ensure as much uniformity as possible with our internal own admission authority schools and academies and neighbouring local authorities. Therefore, minimising where possible internal differences and any cross-boundary disruption.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

- 1.1 The 1996 Education Act gives local authorities a duty to determine school term dates for community and voluntary controlled schools.
- 1.2 Schools must be open to pupils for 190 days in an academic year, and 195 days for teachers.

- 1.3 Responsibility for setting term and holiday dates for all community and voluntary controlled schools within North East Lincolnshire lies with the local authority. All community and voluntary controlled schools have followed a single pattern of school year as determined by the local authority.
- 1.4 Responsibility for setting term dates and holiday dates for voluntary aided, foundation, trust, schools and academies lie with their respective governing bodies.
- 1.5 The proposal for North East Lincolnshire's 2025-2026 School Year is set out in Appendix A. This proposal allows for an academic year of 190 days. It is aligned to both Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire Local Authorities.
- 1.6 The proposed dates for North Lincolnshire and Lincolnshire Local Authorities are provided at Appendices B and C.
- 1.7 As some academies in North East Lincolnshire have previously determined a two week break in October, there will always be some difficulties in total alignment.
- 1.8 The intentions of academies in North East Lincolnshire for 2025-2026 are unknown at this time.
- 1.9 The recommendations for the 2025-2026 academic year are based on the former Local Government Association (LGA) guidelines and include:
 - A start of the school year as near to 1 September as possible;
 - Equalised teaching and learning blocks (roughly 2 x 7 and 4 x 6 weeks);
 - A 2 week spring break in early April, irrespective of the incidence of Easter;
 - The possibility of a summer holiday of at least 6 weeks for those schools which would like this length of break.
- 1.10 The proposal provides for 190 school days, schools will need to identify 5 additional days as training days outside of these dates.
- 1.11 Previous consultations have identified and confirmed the significant cross-boundary interchange between North East Lincolnshire and Lincolnshire Local Authorities of teaching and non-teaching school staff. Any difference in term dates could pose an issue for those families affected.
- 1.12 The proposal for the 2025-2026 academic year was emailed to all schools / academies with a three-week consultation period for response (9th November 2023 – 30th November 2023).
- 1.13 The proposal was also distributed, by e-mail, to members of the Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) and neighbouring local authorities on 9th November 2023. No formal consultation responses were received from JCC members or from the neighbouring local authorities. Although, both North Lincolnshire and Lincolnshire Local Authorities had previously advised that North East Lincolnshire's proposal aligns with their determined dates for 2025-2026.

2. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Risk assessment against proposed school term dates. Identified as Priority E – Low Risk, Requiring Monitor and Review. The school term dates are consulted upon and determined annually. The only impact on service users/residents in the borough is differing term dates of other admission authorities. The recommended proposal attempts to minimise the differences.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None

4. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

Due to the stake holder consultation, there are minimal potential reputational implications for the Council resulting from the decision.

5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There is no effect on the Council's revenue or capital expenditure or any expectation to call on Council's reserves.

6. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS

Standardised school term dates enable all children and young people to access appropriate education and be given the opportunity to learn and become employed.

7. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no climate change or environmental implications.

8. CONSULTATION WITH SCRUTINY

There has been no consultation with Council's Scrutiny Panel.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct additional financial implications arising from the report.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1. By virtue of section 32 of the Education Act 2002, the Local Authority has a duty to set school term and holiday dates for community schools, community special schools, voluntary controlled schools, pupil referral units and maintained nursery schools in its area.

10.2. The Education (School Day and School Year) (England) Regulations 1999 require all maintained schools to open to educate their pupils for at least 380 sessions (190 days) in each school year.

10.3. The proposal pursuant to the Deregulation Act 2015 to let all schools set their own term dates will not be implemented, therefore the Local Authority keeps the duty to set term and holiday dates.

10.4. The content of the report reflects that the Council is compliant with its obligations.

11. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct HR implications arising from the contents of this report.

12. WARD IMPLICATIONS

All wards are affected.

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

[2002 Education Act - Section 32](#)

14. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

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COUNCILLOR CRACKNELL
PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR CHILDREN AND EDUCATION

NORTH EAST LINCS. PROPOSED SCHOOL TERM DATES 2025 – 2026
(1 week October Half Term)

Bank Holidays in England

- Thursday 25 December, Friday 26 December 2025 and Thursday 1 January 2026
- Friday 3 April and Monday 6 April 2026
- Monday 4 May and Monday 25 May 2026

Term	Open	Close
1 (2025) 36 days	4 September	23 October
2 (2025) 35 days	3 November	19 December
3 (2026) 29 days	6 January	13 February
4 (2026) 29 days	23 February	2 April
5 (2026) 23 days	21 April	22 May
6 (2026) 38 days	1 June	22 July

The above dates represent the statutory requirement for schools to be open for **190 days** for pupils. Schools will need to identify 5 training days **outside** the dates shown.

If schools need to set training days within the dates shown they should identify the additional day/s they will be open for pupils so that they still meet the requirement to be open to pupils for **190 days**.

Any school intending to take different holiday dates from those above should ensure that they meet the statutory requirement to be open for **190 days** for pupils