



EDUCATION EXECUTIVE

SCHOOL SESSION DATES 2017/18

REPORT BY HEAD OF EDUCATION (DEVELOPMENT)

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To invite the Education Executive to consider the proposed Session Dates for 2017/18

B. RECOMMENDATION

To recommend approval of Session Dates for 2017/18.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; providing equality of opportunities; developing employees; making best use of our resources; working in partnership
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	The proposal conforms to Council practice regarding local holidays. There is a statutory requirement for schools to provide 190 teaching days.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	The timing of school holidays is a factor in successful examination preparation and therefore may impact on Council attainment performance indicators.
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	The timing of school holidays is a factor in successful examination preparation and therefore may impact on attainment performance indicators in the Single Outcome Agreement.
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	None

VII Consideration at PDSP

17 May 2016.

VIII Other consultations

West Lothian Parent Council Forum, Parent Councils, Headteachers, LNCT

D. TERMS OF REPORT

Appendix 1 lists the proposed school session dates for 2017/18. Appendix 2 shows these dates in a calendar format for ease of reference.

The proposed session dates include a fixed Easter/Spring Break starting on the last Monday of March, as agreed by the Education Executive at its meeting of 10 June 2014, following consultation with Parent Councils, Headteachers and the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers.

The proposed session dates do not include a week off in February, as is the case in some other authorities. This matter has previously been considered during previous consultations on session dates, and the Council has agreed not to include a week off in February for the following reasons:-

- A week's break in February would impact adversely on secondary attainment.
- Many parents do not want children to have a holiday in February when it is cold and dark, and children have less opportunity for outdoor activities.

Appendix 3 shows the proposed session dates in neighbouring authorities. Members should note that these dates differ from each other, and so it will not be possible to set holiday which coincide with all neighbouring authorities. Some authorities have not yet published their dates for 2017/18. Members should also note that some other authorities are also consulting on their proposed dates and so the information in this appendix may be subject to change.

Consultation has taken place with the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers, Headteachers and Parent Councils. The draft dates presented take account of one minor amendment proposed by LNCT, which was to hold the two day February holiday on 12 and 13 February 2018, and not 9 and 12 February 2018.

Fewer responses were received than for previous consultations. This may be because the timing of Easter and the day of the week on which Christmas and New Year fall has resulted in a pattern of holidays with the October, Christmas, Spring and Summer holiday starting on a Monday and finishing on a Friday.

St Paul's PS Parent Council commented that it would like to see a week holiday in February, with one week less in the Summer Holiday. One parent from the Broxburn Area made similar points in correspondence with elected members which was passed to Education Services.

The proposed Session Dates for 2017/18 take account of the comments received during consultation with Parent Councils, Headteachers and the Local Negotiating Committee with Teaching Staff by moving the Spring Break so that it encompasses Easter, and including an additional day holiday in February.

E. CONCLUSION

The Education Executive is invited to consider the proposed Session Dates for 2017/18.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Education Executive of 10 June 2014.

Appendices/Attachments:

1. Proposed Session Dates 2017/18
2. Proposed Session Dates 2017/18 Calendar Format
3. Neighbouring Authorities

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Date of meeting: 7 June 2016