

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



EDUCATION EXECUTIVE

REVISED SCHOOL SESSION DATES 2020/21 – ALTERED AUGUST START DATE

REPORT BY HEAD OF EDUCATION (LEARNING, POLICY AND RESOURCES)

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the Education Executive of the proposed revised school session start date for 2020/21.

B. RECOMMENDATION

To approve the proposed revised school session start date for 2020/21.

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)	<p>Excellent and Equity During the COVID-19 Pandemic – A Strategic Framework for Reopening Schools, Early Learning and Childcare Provision in Scotland</p> <p>There is a statutory requirement for schools to provide 190 teaching days for pupils.</p> <p>No environmental, health or risk issues have been identified.</p>
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None.
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	None.
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	None.
VII Consideration at PDSP	None.

VIII Other consultations

Consultation with chair of the West Lothian Council Parent Forum and LNCT undertaken.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

The Education Executive had previously agreed Term dates for School Session 2020/21 at its meeting of 11 June 2019. The West Lothian school start date was agreed as 17 August, this being an in-service day for staff.

Excellence and Equity during the COVID-19 Pandemic – A Strategic Framework for Reopening Schools, Early Learning and Childcare Provision in Scotland has been jointly developed by the Scottish Government and Local Government, with support from key partners across the education system, and is an agreed strategic framework to be used at local level in conjunction with Local Phasing Delivery Plans for the reopening of schools and early learning and childcare (ELC) provision in Scotland.

The Framework states that the start date of the new term will be standardised to 11 August 2020 for the purposes of managing Covid-19, which will mean an earlier than planned start for some schools, including those in West Lothian. The Framework states that a universal approach will bring benefits for children, including an earlier return to school for many, and the ability for all learners to engage with weekly in-home learning tasks.

Given the instruction for the standardised 11 August 2020 start date, it is proposed that the previously agreed in-service date of 17 August 2020 be changed to 11 August 2020.

A further report will be prepared for the Education Executive on the alterations necessary to address the impact on the term dates of returning to school four days earlier than agreed, as pupils require 190 days of learning and staff are entitled to 5 days of professional development.

E. CONCLUSION

The Education Executive is invited to approve the proposed revision of the in-service day from 17 August 2020 to 11 August 2020.

It is important that these arrangements are approved as soon as practicable in order that staff and parents may be informed, and to aid planning of the re-opening of schools.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Education Executive of 11 June 2019.

Contact Person: Andrew Sneddon, Service Manager - Learning Policy and Resources

James Cameron, Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources)

Date of meeting: 23 June 2020