

# Delegated Decisions report



23 March 2021

## PROPOSED TERM DATES FROM SEPTEMBER 2022 FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS

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Exempt / confidential / not for publication	<b>No</b>
Council Plan reference	<b>5.6</b>
Wards affected	<b>All wards</b>

### Executive Summary

The Council is required by the Department for Education to set term dates for community and voluntary controlled schools in Milton Keynes. Other types of schools set their own term dates. There must be 190 education days. Schools are then free to identify 5 INSET days (training days) from the remaining 175 days in the year when the school is closed to pupils. The council can only set term dates for community and voluntary controlled schools as the law no longer allows us to ensure that term dates for all schools are aligned.

Although 190 teaching days are required to be set in Milton Keynes it is considered that 194 days should be set allowing schools to allocate four training days within the term dates and one further training day outside these. An initial discussion with the Primary Strategy Headteacher group and Milton Keynes Secondary Heads Group was carried out to consider options for term dates for the 2022/2023 academic year. Following this, a consultation of the proposed term dates took place from 4 January 2021 to 12 February 2021 setting out two possible options and sought to gather views on the preferred option.

It is recommended that the term dates set out in Option 1 are formally adopted for community and voluntary controlled schools for the 2022/2023 academic year.

## 1. Decisions to be Made

- 1.1 That the following 194 school term days are formally adopted for community and voluntary controlled schools for the 2022/2023 academic year.

Term	Open morning of	Close at the end of the afternoon session on	Total days per half term
Autumn Term 2022	2 September 2022	21 October 2022	36
	31 October 2022	16 December 2022	35
Spring Term 2023	3 January 2023	10 February 2023	29
	20 February 2023	31 March 2023	30
Summer Term 2023	17 April 2023	26 May 2023	29
	5 June 2023	21 July 2023	35
			194

- 1.2 This provides 194 days when only 190 term days are required. Schools should therefore allocate four training days within these term dates and one further training day outside these dates and then publish their individual term dates clearly on their websites to ensure that parents and carers are aware of the exact term dates for each individual school.

## 2. Why is the Decision Needed?

- 2.1 The Education Act 2002 states that the council should determine the dates when school terms are to begin and end for all community and voluntary controlled schools. Other categories of schools (voluntary aided, foundation, academies and free schools) are required to determine their own term dates. The dates are normally set 18 months in advance to ensure adequate notice.
- 2.2 For the 2022/2023 term dates, an early discussion took place with the Primary Strategy Headteacher Group and Milton Keynes Secondary Heads Group. A consultation proposing two possible options for term dates then took place from 4 January 2021 to 12 February 2021. The consultation was distributed to all schools via School's Update (the council's regular newsletter to all schools), all local councillors (via Councillor News), school governors (via Governor News) and published on the council's website. The proposed dates were also shared directly with all Headteachers and Chairs of Governing Boards via the council's pre-organised meetings.
- 2.3 **Annex D** presents a summary of the consultation responses. A total of 358 responses were received; 91% of respondents agreed with Option 1, 9% agreed with Option 2.
- 2.4 Neighbouring local authorities are either consulting or have set their term dates. Bedford Borough Council, Central Bedfordshire Council and Northamptonshire County Council align with the majority of dates set out in Option 1. Buckinghamshire Council align with the majority of dates set out in Option 2.

2.5 Generally, costs around home to school transport are school specific. Whilst there is a risk that own admission authorities will set different dates and schools will set different inset days, it is considered low risk.

3. Options

3.1 There are three options:

- (a) Do not set the term dates. This is not the recommended option as the council is required to set school term dates for community and voluntary controlled schools, as set out in the Department for Education ‘School Attendance Guidance’ and Education Act 2002 section 32.
- (b) Adopt the proposed term dates as set out in Option 1 which would apply only to community and voluntary controlled schools. The Milton Keynes Secondary Headteacher Group reviewed both Option 1 and Option 2 and commented that this is the preferable option as it aligns term dates across our local area to support families who may have children in different phases of education or be employed in schools. Since the majority of respondents agreed with Option 1, **this is the recommended option.**
- (c) Adopt the proposed term dates as set out in Option 2 which would apply only to community and voluntary controlled schools. However, since the majority did not agree with Option 2, this is not the recommended option.

4. Implications

4.1 Policy

Once adopted, the term dates 2022/2023 become policy for all maintained community and voluntary controlled schools. Other types of schools may set their own dates.

4.2 Resources and Risk

None.

Capital	No	Revenue	Yes
IT	Yes	Medium Term Plan	Yes
Accommodation	No	Asset Management	No

4.3 Legal Implications

The council is required to set school term dates as described in [School Attendance guidance](#) (page 15) and under the Education Act 2002 - section 32.

#### 4.4 Other Implications

None.

Y	Equalities/Diversity	N	Sustainability	N	Human Rights
N	E-Government	Y	Stakeholders	N	Crime and Disorder

#### 4. Alternatives

4.1 Other alternatives have been considered throughout this process; see Option 1 and Option 2 above.

#### 5. Timetable for Implementation

5.1 If the decision is agreed, term dates for admission to community and voluntary controlled schools will be implemented from September 2022.

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#### List of Annexes

- Annex A Consultation on proposed school term dates for 2022/2023
- Annex B Proposed school term dates calendar Option 1
- Annex C Proposed school term dates calendar Option 2
- Annex D Summary of consultation responses

#### List of Background Papers

School Attendance Guidance  
[School Attendance guidance](#) (page 15)