

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education Operational Delivery Committee
DATE	12 November 2019
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	School Holiday Pattern 2020 to 2025
REPORT NUMBER	OPE/19/395
DIRECTOR	Rob Polkinghorne
CHIEF OFFICER	Eleanor Sheppard
REPORT AUTHOR	Matt Reid and Donna Cuthill
TERMS OF REFERENCE	5

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Education Operational Delivery Committee of 16th May 2019 agreed that the existing holiday pattern should continue for the session 2020/2021 and a further consultation exercise be undertaken to determine if the summer holiday should be brought forward by a week in future years. This report provides Committee with the outcome of further consultation undertaken to determine if the school summer holiday should be brought forward by a week.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 2.1 note the consultation approach and subsequent feedback on the summer holiday pattern 2020-21 to 2024-25;
- 2.2 agree to maintain the current holiday pattern for the next 5 years with no change to the timing of the summer school holiday; and
- 2.3 instruct the Chief Operating Officer to publish details of the holiday pattern up to 2025 as detailed in Appendix A.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1.1 In May 2019 the Education Operational Delivery Committee considered the public feedback on the current school holiday pattern. The committee approved retaining the general pattern of school holidays of previous years but requested that further consultation be undertaken regarding alteration to the current summer holidays arrangements for the period 2020-21 to 2024-25. For this reason, only the timing of the school summer holidays was consulted upon.

3.1.2 For absolute clarity, the following question was posed to children and young people, parents, carers, families and staff; 'do you agree the school summer holidays should be moved forward by one week?'

3.2.1 THE SURVEY

3.2.2 To support respondents in making an informed decision they were asked to consider three key pieces of information when considering a change to the timing of the school holidays. The potential rationale for bringing the holidays forward by a week was that a change would:

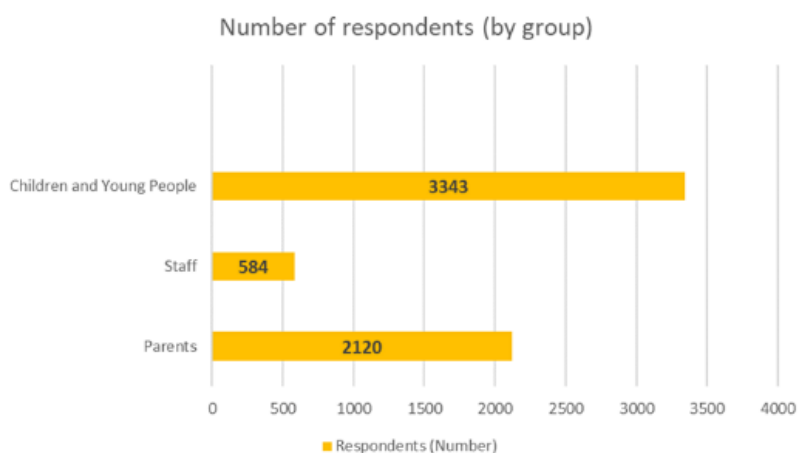
- bring the summer holidays in line with 26 other local authorities across Scotland;
- potentially help reduce non-authorized pupil absences at end of the summer term; and
- improve staff accessibility in order to support and advise young people in the Senior Phase nearer to SQA results time.

3.3.1 CONSULTATION APPROACH

3.3.2 An online consultation was open to all parents, staff and pupils between 9th September and 20th September 2019. The questions posed were carefully considered to ensure that children and young people and families were able to fully engage with the process and inform Council decisions.

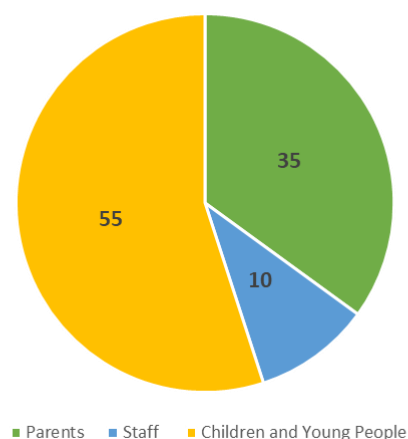
3.3.3 The consultation was widely promoted in schools, on school websites, on the Aberdeen City Council website and on Twitter. Children and young people were supported by school staff to ensure that their views were recorded and accurately represented.

3.3.4 The consultation collected a total of 6047 responses, a significant increase compared with the earlier survey of February and March of 2019 which gathered a total of 4120 responses.



3.3.5 35% of respondents were parents (2120), 10% from school staff (584) with the remaining 3343 responses (55% of returns) from children and young people in our education system. It is felt that all groups of stakeholders were fairly represented with particularly good representation from children and young people.

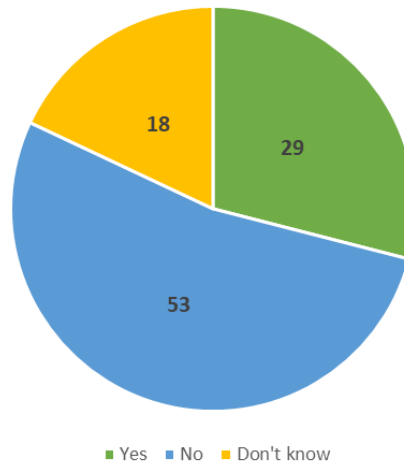
Composition of Respondents (%)



3.4.1 FEEDBACK FROM THE CONSULTATION

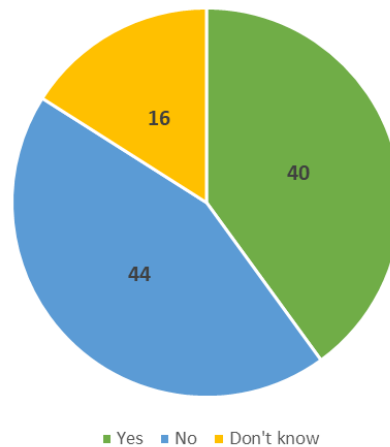
3.4.2 When asked the question, ‘do you agree the school summer holidays should be moved forward by one week?’, the majority of children and young people (53%) were keen to keep the current arrangements and make no change to the summer holiday pattern. Only 29% expressed a desire to move the holiday pattern and 18% didn’t express a preference.

Children and Young People Response (%)



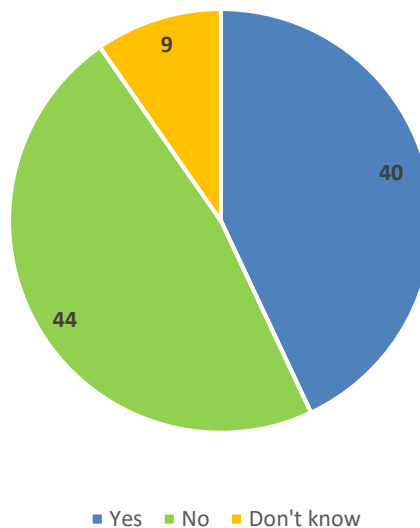
3.4.3 The outcome of the consultation for parents was similar although less conclusive with 44% expressing a desire to not change the week of the holiday, 40% keen to make a change and 16% being undecided.

Parents/Staff Response(%)

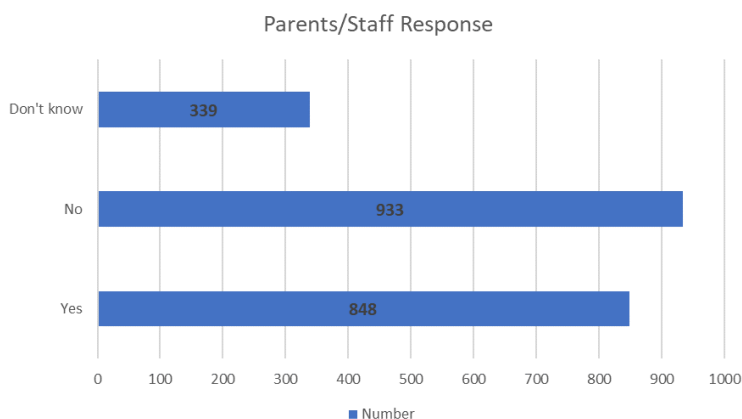


3.4.4 The number of staff expressing a desire for no change was 44%, whilst 40% sought change to the holiday pattern and 9% were undecided.

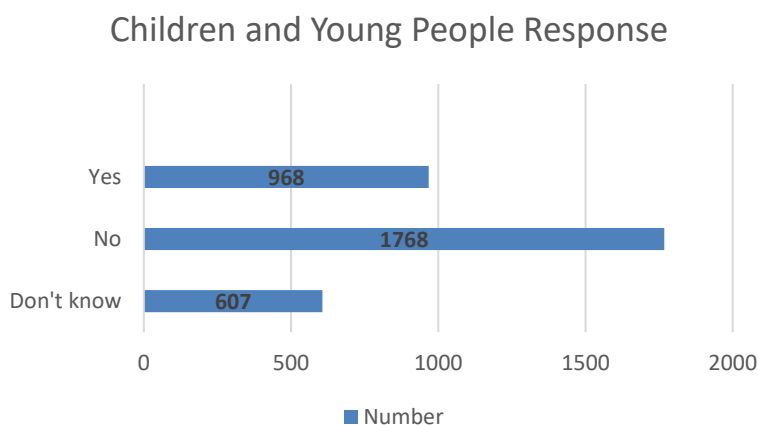
Staff Response %



3.4.5 Looking at the numbers of responses we can determine that 848 adults were keen to change the summer holiday pattern with 1272 either offering no preference or not keen to change the arrangement.



We are also able to establish that 968 children and young people were keen to change the summer holiday pattern with 2375 either offering no preference or not keen to change the arrangement.



3.4.6 A summary of responses suggests that there is no appetite to change the timing of the school holiday pattern and this has informed the recommendation to retain the current holiday pattern for the next 5 years.

Response	Parents	Staff	Children & Young people	Total	Overall Percentage
Yes	1168	299	968	2435	40%
No	632	235	1768	2655	44%
Don't know	301	49	607	957	16%

3.5.1 HOLIDAY PATTERN FROM 2020/2021 – 2025/2026

3.5.2 The Officer recommendation is that the current holiday pattern be retained over the next 5 years. An illustration of the proposed holiday pattern is available for consideration in Appendix A.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

	Risk	Low (L), Medium (M), High (H)	Mitigation
Financial	None		
Legal	None		
Employee	School staff who are parents and employed by ACC but living out with city boundaries would be presented with an additional week's childcare due to Aberdeenshire summer holiday pattern not being aligned. Potential for employee dissatisfaction and migration to other local authorities/employers.	L	Mitigated by not changing the holiday pattern at present and further review in 2025.
Customer	Potential negative implications for children, young people and parent's where children attend schools in both Aberdeen city and Aberdeenshire. Children and young people feel that their views were not given full consideration.	L	Mitigated by not changing the holiday pattern at present and further review in 2025.
Environment	None		
Technology	None		

Reputational	Potential for reputational damage if views are not reflected in final decision.	L	Can be mitigated by making no alteration to the existing summer holiday pattern.
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7. OUTCOMES

Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes	
	Impact of Report
Prosperous People	7. Child Friendly City which supports all children to prosper and engage actively with their communities by 2026

Design Principles of Target Operating Model	
	Impact of Report
Customer Service Design	The consultation activities undertaken to date have sought to ensure that we actively seek the informed views of families and children and young people and deliver a customer focussed service.
Governance	Overseen by Chief Officers and by the Education Operational Delivery Committee.
Workforce	On-going clarity of expectations and entitlements across school-based workforce (and beyond).
Partnerships and Alliances	Outcomes to be informed by public sector engagement.

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment	Not required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty	Not applicable

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

10. APPENDICES

- Appendix A – proposed Aberdeen city school holidays
- Appendix B – Comparison with Aberdeenshire school holidays

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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Appendix A: Proposed School Holiday Dates – 2020 - 2025

	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
Term 1					
Staff training day	Mon. 17 th August	Mon. 16 th August	Mon. 22 nd August	Mon. 21 st August	Mon. 19 th August
Pupils return	Tue. 18 th August	Tue. 17 th August	Tue. 23 rd August	Tuesday 22 nd August	Tue. 20 th August
September holiday	Fri. 18 th September and Mon. 21 st September	Fri. 17 th September and Monday 20 th September	Fri. 23 rd September & Mon. 26 th September	Fri. 22 nd September and Mon. 25 th September	Fri. 20 th September and Mon. 23 rd September
Term ends	Fri. 9 th October	Fri. 8 th October	Fri. 14 th October	Fri. 13 th October	Fri. 11 th October
October holiday	Mon. 12 th October - Fri. 23 rd October	Mon. 11 th October – Fri. 22 nd October	Mon. 17 th October – Fri. 28 th October	Mon. 16 th October - Fri. 27 th October	Mon. 14 th October - Fri. 25 th October
Term 2					
Term starts	Mon. 26 th October	Mon. 25 th October	Mon. 31 st October	Mon. 30 th October	Mon. 28 th October
Term ends	Fri. 18 th December	Tuesday 21 st December	Thur. 22 nd December	Thur. 21 st December	Fri. 20 th December
Winter holiday	Mon. 21 st December - Mon. 4 th January	Wed. 22 nd December - Wed. 5 th January	Fri. 23 rd December - Fri. 6 th January	Fri. 22 nd December - Fri. 5 th January	Mon. 23 rd December - Fri. 3 rd January
Term 3					
Term starts	Tue. 5 th January	Thu. 6 th January	Mon. 9 th January	Mon. 8 th January	Mon. 6 th January
Mid term	Mon. 15 th February	Mon. 14 th February	Mon. 13 th February	Mon. 12 th February	Mon. 10 th February
Term ends	Fri. 26 th March	Fri. 1 st April	Fri. 31 st March	Fri. 29 th March	Fri. 28 th March
Spring holiday	Mon. 29 th March - Fri. 9 th April	Mon. 4 th April - Fri. 15 th April	Mon. 3 rd April - Fri. 14 th April	Mon. 1 st April - 12 th April	Mon. 31 st March - Fri. 11 th April
Term 4					
Term starts	Mon. 12 th April	Mon. 18 th April	Mon. 17 th April	Mon. 15 th April	Mon. 14 th April
Good Friday					Fri. 18 th April
May Day holiday	Mon. 3 rd May	Mon. 2 nd May	Mon. 1 st May	Mon. 6 th May	Mon. 5 th May
Term Ends	Fri. 2 nd July	Fri. 1 st July	Fri. 7 th July	Fri. 5 th July	Fri. 4 th July
In-service days	20 th Nov, 16 th Feb, 17 th Feb, 4 th May	19 th Nov, 15 th Feb, 16 th Feb, 3 rd May	18 th Nov, 14 th Feb, 15 ^h Feb, 2 nd May	17 th Nov, 13 th Feb, 14 th Feb, 7 th May	15 th Nov, 11 th Feb, 12 th Feb, 6 th May

Appendix B: Proposed School Holiday Dates & Comparison with Aberdeenshire

	2020/2021	2020/2021	2021/2022	2021/2022	2022/2023	2022/2023	2023/2024	2023/2024	2024/2025	2024/2025
Term 1	Aberdeen City	Aberdeenshire	Aberdeen City	Aberdeenshire	Aberdeen City	Aberdeenshire	Aberdeen City	Aberdeenshire	Aberdeen City	Aberdeenshire
Staff inset day	Mon. 17 th August	Mon. 17 th August	Mon. 16 th August	Mon. 16 th August	Mon. 22 nd August	Mon. 22 nd August	Mon. 21 st August	Mon. 21 st August	Mon. 19 th August	Mon. 19 th August
Pupils return	Tue. 18 th August	Tue. 18 th August	Tue. 17 th August	Tue. 17 th August	Tue. 23 rd August	Tue. 23 rd August	Tue. 22 nd August	Tue. 22 nd August	Tue. 20 th August	Tue. 20 th August
September holiday	Fri 18 th September & Mon 21 st September	No Holiday	Fri. 17 th September & Mon 20 th September	No holiday	Fri. 23 rd September & Mon. 26 th September	No holiday	Fri. 22 nd September and Mon. 25 th September	No holiday	Fri. 20 th September and Mon. 23 rd September	No holiday
Term ends	Fri. 9 th October	Fri. 9 th October	Fri. 8 th October	Fri. 8 th October	Fri. 14 th October	Fri. 14 th October	Fri. 13 th October	Fri. 13 th October	Fri. 11 th October	Fri. 11 th October
October holiday	Mon. 12 th October - Fri. 23 rd October	Mon. 12 th October - Fri. 23 rd October	Mon. 11 th October - Fri. 22 nd October	Mon. 11 th October - Fri. 22 nd October	Mon. 17 th October - Fri. 28 th October	Mon. 17 th October - Fri. 28 th October	Mon. 16 th October to Fri. 27 th October	Mon. 16 th October - Fri. 27 th October	Mon. 14 th October to Fri. 25 th October	Mon. 14 th October - Fri. 25 th October
Term 2										
Term starts	Mon. 26 th October	Mon. 26 th October	Mon. 25 th October	Mon. 25 th October	Mon. 31 st October	Mon. 31 st October	Mon 30 th October	Mon 31 st October	Mon. 28 th October	Mon 28 th October
Term ends	Fri. 18 th December	Fri. 18 th December	Tuesday 21 st December	Tuesday 21 st December	Thurs. 22 nd December	Thur. 22 nd December	Thur. 21 st December	Fri. 22 nd December	Fri. 20 th December	Fri. 20 th December
In-service	20 th November	19 th , 20 th November	19 th November	18 th 19 th November	18 th November	17 th 18 th November	17 th November	16 th - 17 th November	15 th November	14 th - 15 th November
Winter holiday	Mon. 21 st December - Mon. 4 th January	Mon. 21 st December - Mon. 4 th January	Wednesday 22 nd December - Wed. 5 th January	Wednesday 22 nd December - Tues. 4 th January	Fri. 23 rd December - Fri. 6 th January	Fri. 23 rd December - Fri. 6 th January	Fri. 22 nd December - Fri. 5 th January	Fri. 22 nd December - Fri. 5 th January	Mon. 23 rd December - Fri. 3 rd January	Mon. 23 rd December - Fri. 3 rd January

Term 3										
Term starts	Tue. 5 th January	Tue. 5 th January	Thu. 6 th January	Wed. 5 th January	Mon. 9 th January	Mon. 9 th January	Mon. 8 th January	Mon. 8 th January	Mon. 6 th January	Mon. 6 th January
Mid term	Mon. 15 th February	Mon. 15 th February	Mon. 14 th February	Mon. 14 th February	Mon. 13 th February	Mon. 13 th February	Mon. 12 th February	Mon. 12 th February	Mon. 10 th February	Mon. 10 th February
In-service	16 th ,17 th February	16 th ,17 th February	15 th , 16 th Feb	15 th ,16 th February	14 th , 15 th Feb	14 th ,15 th February	13 th , 14 th Feb	13 th 14 th February	11 th , 12 th Feb	11 th , 12 th February
Term ends	Fri. 26 th March	Fri. 26 th March	Fri. 1 st April	Fri. 1 st April	Fri. 31 st March	Fri. 31 st March	Fri. 29 th March	Thur. 28 th March	Fri. 28 th March	Fri. 28 th March
Spring holiday	Mon. 29 th March - Fri. 9 th April	Mon. 29 th March - Fri. 9 th April	Mon. 4 th April to Fri. 15 th April	Mon. 4 th April to Fri. 15 th April	Mon. 3 rd April to Fri. 14 th April	Mon. 3 rd April to Fri. 14 th April	1 st April – 12 th April	Fri. 29 th March – 12 th April	Mon. 31 st March - Fri. 11 th April	Mon. 31 st March - Fri. 11 th April
Term 4										
Term starts	Mon. 12 th April	Mon. 12 th April	Mon. 18 th April	Mon. 18 th April	Mon. 17 th April	Mon. 17 th April	Mon. 15 th April	Mon. 15 th April	Mon. 14 th April	Mon. 14 th April
Good Friday									Fri. 18 th April	Fri. 18 th April
May Day holiday	Mon. 3 rd May	Mon. 3 rd May	Mon. 2 nd May	Mon. 2 nd May	Mon. 1 st May	Mon. 1 st May	Mon. 6 th May	Mon. 6 th May	Mon. 5 th May	Mon. 5 th May
In-service	Tue. 4 th May		Tue. 3 rd May		Tue. 2 nd May		Mon. 7 th May		Tue. 6 th May	
Term Ends	Fri. 2 nd July	Fri. 2 nd July	Fri. 1 st July	Fri. 1 st July	Fri. 7 th July	Fri. 7 th July	Fri. 5 th July	Fri. 5 th July	Fri. 4 th July	Fri. 4 th July
In-service/ Occasional Days (Aberdeens hire)		1 day to be determined		3 days to be determined		3 days to be determined		2 days to be determined		3 days to be determined