



Renfrewshire
Council

To: Education and Children's Services Policy Board

On: 2 November 2023

Report by: Interim Chief Education Officer

Heading: School Holiday Arrangements School Session 2024/2025

1. Summary

- 1.1. The Education and Children's Services Policy Board is asked to determine the pattern of school holiday arrangements for the school session beginning August 2024.
 - 1.2. In line with consultation arrangements and discussion with trade union representatives, Children's Services have taken the decision this year not to offer 3 proposals. It was felt that the option being proposed for 2024/2025 provides the pattern of holidays that the majority of staff, pupils and parents vote for annually. Staff, pupils and parents were given the opportunity to comment on the proposal.
 - 1.3. Attached as Appendix 1 to this report, is the proposal shared with staff, parents and pupil representatives.
 - 1.4. Appendix 2 is a summary of consultation responses received back.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Members of the Education and Children's Services Policy Board are asked to authorise the interim chief education officer to set school holiday arrangements for academic year 2024/2025 in line with appendix 1 to this report.
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3. Background

- 3.1. Each year the Education and Children's Services Policy Board is asked to determine a framework for school holiday arrangements for the session beginning in August of the following year.

- 3.2. Consultation has taken place with staff, parent councils, pupil councils, teaching and other trade unions for consideration on the proposal for 2024/2025.
 - 3.3. The recommended arrangements attached are the best match possible to those being considered by neighbouring councils given the varying fair holiday arrangements.
 - 3.4. The proposed patterns meet, where possible, the majority of the desirable features which are:
 - aligning the dates of major holidays with those of neighbouring councils;
 - providing a two week break at Christmas, including Christmas eve;
 - providing a mid-term break in February; and
 - providing a two week school holiday in spring.
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Implications of this report

1. **Financial Implications**
None.
2. **HR and Organisational Development Implications**
None.
3. **Community Plan/Council Plan Implications**
None.
4. **Legal Implications**
None.
5. **Property/Assets Implications**
None.
6. **Information Technology Implications**
None.
7. **Equality and Human Rights Implications**
The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because for example it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
8. **Health and Safety Implications**
None.

9. Procurement Implications

None.

10. Risk Implications

None.

11. Privacy Impact

None.

12. Cosla Policy Position

None.

13. Climate Risk

None

List of Background Papers

- (a) Background Paper 1: Proposed School Holiday Arrangements – 2023/2024

The foregoing background papers will be retained within children's services for inspection by the public for the prescribed period of four years from the date of the meeting. The contact officer within the service is (Laura Baillie, Resources Support Manager, 07970876292 laura.baillie@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

*Children's Services
GL/LB
2 October 2023*

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Renfrewshire Council			
			2 in-service days on return in August
			1 Day St Andrews Day (in December as 30/11/24 is weekend)
	Proposed School Holiday Arrangements		Stop for Christmas Friday 20 December 2024
			2 Day February Break
			1 Day Start of May
			1 day End of May
	School Session 2024 2025		Finish for Summer Break 27 June 2025
			In-Service Days before Holidays
Option A			
Term	Break	Dates of Attendance	
First		In-Service Day - Closed for Pupils Only	Wednesday 14 August 2024 (IS)
		In-Service Day - Closed for Pupils Only	Thursday 15 August 2024 (IS)
		Schools Re-Open	Friday 16 August 2024
	Local Holiday/Closed	Schools Closed	Friday 27 September 2024
		Schools Closed	Monday 30 September 2024
		Schools Re-Open	Tuesday 1 October 2024
	Mid Term	In-Service Day - Closed for Pupils Only	Friday 11 October 2024 (IS)
		Schools Closed	Monday 14 October 2024
		Schools Closed	Tuesday 15 October 2024
		Schools Closed	Wednesday 16 October 2024
	Schools Closed	Thursday 17 October 2024	
	Schools Closed	Friday 18 October 2024	
	Schools Re-Open	Monday 21 October 2024	
	St Andrew's Day	Schools Closed	Monday 2 December 2024
		Schools Re-open	Tuesday 3 December 2024
	Christmas	Schools Closed	Monday 23 December 2024
Second		Schools Closed	Tuesday 24 December 2024
		Schools Closed	Wednesday 25 December 2024
		Schools Closed	Thursday 26 December 2024
		Schools Closed	Friday 27 December 2024
		Schools Closed	Monday 30 December 2024
		Schools Closed	Tuesday 31 December 2024
		Schools Closed	Wednesday 1 January 2025
		Schools Closed	Thursday 2 January 2025
		Schools Closed	Friday 3 January 2025
		Schools Re-Open	Monday 6 January 2025
		Mid-Term	In-Service Day - Closed for Pupils Only
		Schools Closed	Monday 17 February 2025
		Schools Closed	Tuesday 18 February 2025
		Schools Re-Open	Wednesday 19 February 2025
	Spring	Schools Closed	Monday 7 April 2025
		Schools Closed	Tuesday 8 April 2025
		Schools Closed	Wednesday 9 April 2025
		Schools Closed	Thursday 10 April 2025
		Schools Closed	Friday 11 April 2025
		Schools Closed	Monday 14 April 2025
		Schools Closed	Tuesday 15 April 2025
		Schools Closed	Wednesday 16 April 2025
		Schools Closed	Thursday 17 April 2025
		Schools Closed	Friday 18 April 2025
		Schools Closed	Monday 21 April 2025
		Schools Re-Open	Tuesday 22 April 2025
	May Day	Schools Closed	Monday 5 May 2025
		Schools Re-Open	Tuesday 6 May 2025
	Local Holiday/Closed	In-Service Day - Closed for Pupils Only	Friday 23 May 2025 (IS)
		Schools Closed	Monday 26 May 2025
		Schools Re-Open	Tuesday 27 May 2025
	End of session	Schools Closed	Monday 30 June 2025
Teachers Return -	Thursday 14 August 2025		
(IS) - In-Service Day			
In-Service Days	(Only Staff Attend on these days - No Pupils)		
	Wednesday	14/08/24	
	Thursday	15/08/24	
	Friday	11/10/24	
	Friday	14/02/25	
	Friday	23/05/25	

Appendix 2

Please select your establishment	Do you agree with the draft term time dates/ holiday plan for the 2024/25 session?	Please add any further comments that you would like us to consider about the draft term time dates/ holiday plan?	Response type
Arkleston Primary School	Yes		Teacher
Arkleston Primary School	No	Concern regarding children only being back one day and then off for the weekend. Could be confusing particularly for P1 children.	Teacher
Auchenlodment Primary School	Yes		Teacher
Auchenlodment Primary School	Yes		Teacher
Barsail Primary School	Yes		Teacher
Barsail Primary School	Yes		Parent Council
Barsail Primary School	Yes		Pupil
Bushes Primary School	Yes		Teacher
Bushes Primary School	Yes		Parent Council
Bushes Primary School	Yes		Pupil
Castlehead High School	No	The long weekend at the end of May has been changed to 1 day - where has the other day been placed.	Teacher
Castlehead High School	Yes	Don't see any benefit for pupils coming back for only one day on Friday 16th Aug 2024 - potential for low attendance. Could it be considered for IS on 13/14th Aug, and pupils return 15/16th Aug. Then finish on Thurs 26th June 2025? Parents tend to book holidays straight after school finishes and this would allow for Friday / Weekend flights, plus probably better attendance. Just a suggestion.	Parent Council
Castlehead High School	No Preference		Parent Council
Castlehead High School	Yes		Parent Council
Castlehead High School	Yes		Parent Council
East Fulton Primary School	Yes		Teacher
East Fulton Primary School	Yes	Starting back after summer on a Friday feels a bit pointless	Parent Council
East Fulton Primary School	Yes		Pupil
Ferguslie ELCC	Yes		Parent Council
Fordbank Primary School	Yes		Teacher
Glencoats Primary School	No Preference		Teacher
Heriot Primary School	Yes		
Howwood Primary School	Yes		Parent Council
Howwood Primary School	No	Completely pointless opening on a Friday for first day of the School year (16/08/24). Also Spring holidays	Parent Council
Howwood Primary School	No	Would prefer in-service days after a holiday.	Teacher
Howwood Primary School	No	There's not been much feedback regarding school holidays next year, other than school beginning on the Friday. The general feedback on this is that there's not much point being back for one day & the preference would be either to move this to Wednesday/ Thursday or begin on the Monday and start the first week with a full week.	Parent Council
Johnstone High School	Yes		Teacher
Johnstone High School	Yes	None	Teacher
Johnstone High School	No Preference		Teacher
Johnstone High School	No Preference	n/a	Teacher
Johnstone High School	Yes		Teacher
Johnstone High School	No	I believe that we should move to align with English school holidays. This would help with families meeting up from Scotland and England. It would also be beneficial to Scottish parents working for English companies to align with	Parent Council

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		colleagues down south. Finally, weather patterns are changing and July is now one of the wettest months of the year!	
Kilbarchan Primary School	Yes	Teachers would rather in-service days fall after a holiday instead of before, as has been in previous years.	Teacher
Kilbarchan Primary School	No	The Parent Council are concerned about children starting back in August on a Friday. The concern was raised as the PC feel this will cause children - in particular those in the early stages - to be distressed and unsettled for longer than necessary.	Parent Council
Kirklandneuk Primary School	No	Inservice days are preferable at the end of holidays not the start. Cut a week from the summer holiday and add onto the October holiday to make that a 2week break.	Teacher
Linwood High School	Yes		Teacher
Linwood High School	Yes	Couple of staff suggested they would prefer the in service days to be after the holidays in October & February. thanks	Teacher
Lochfield Primary School	Yes		Teacher
Lochwinnoch Primary School	Yes		Teacher
Lochwinnoch Primary School	Yes		Teacher
Mossvale Primary School	Yes		Teacher
Mossvale Primary School	Yes		Teacher
Our Lady of Peace ELCC	No Preference		
Our Lady Of Peace Primary School	Yes		Pupil
Our Lady Of Peace Primary School	No	I dont think starting a new school year on a Friday is ideal, especially for P1's. Also, I thought the Easter holidays were changed so they would be the first 2 weeks in April? Or is this to coincide with Easter?	Parent Council
Our Lady Of Peace Primary School	Yes		Parent Council
Our Lady Of Peace Primary School	No Preference		Pupil
Our Lady Of Peace Primary School	Yes		Teacher
Our Lady Of Peace Primary School	No	All local and mid term holidays should not be required, and we should not be hindering our children's learning to allow staff to have days off. This also includes the summer holiday which should be reduced to 4 weeks	Parent Council
Our Lady Of Peace Primary School	Yes		Pupil
Our Lady Of Peace Primary School	Yes		Pupil
Our Lady Of Peace Primary School	No		Parent Council
Paisley Grammar School	No Preference		Teacher
Paisley Grammar School	Yes	A full week of school closure in February (with fewer days off elsewhere in the year) would be preferable as this would enable certain winter school trips to take place more easily.	Teacher
Paisley Grammar School	Yes	From memory, the weekend holiday at the end of May usually provides 2 days off school for both pupils and staff. The 2025 end-of-May holiday only provides 1 day off. Is this because of the extra Monday holiday added on at the end of the 2025 Easter holidays (which provides 2 full weeks and 1 extra day off)? Is this correct? Please could you clarify this?	Teacher

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Paisley Grammar School	No	In service days are too heavy on the end of the week days, staff that work part time (start of the week i.e. mon-wed) will have issues with childcare with so many Friday in service days	Teacher
Paisley Grammar School	No	I prefer in-service days after a holiday instead of before.	Teacher
Paisley Grammar School	Yes		Teacher
Ralston Primary School	Yes		
Renfrew High School	Yes	It is maybe unclear as to whether Monday 30th June 2024 is the last day?	Teacher
Renfrew High School	No Preference		Teacher
Renfrew High School	No Preference	The Easter holidays are almost a week later than normal but I understand the decision due to adapting to suit a later Easter Sunday and Monday. Hopefully the SQA exams don't start during week commencing 22 April.	Teacher
Renfrew High School	No	Majority of in-service days on Friday, not good for part time/jobshare staff. Inservices all before holidays except August not ideal. St Andrews day holiday on a Friday would be better, Mondays already have many holidays.	Teacher
Renfrew High School	No		Teacher
Renfrew High School	Yes		Teacher
Renfrew High School	No Preference		Parent Council
Renfrew High School	Yes		Teacher
Renfrew High School	No	I would like to see an option where the last day of term is earlier than Friday 27th June 2025. (Even if this means losing a holiday day or two at earlier in the year.)	Teacher
Renfrew High School	Yes		Teacher
Renfrew High School	Yes	n/a	Teacher
Renfrew High School	No	Don't think the pupils should be starting back for one day only (Friday) in Aug 24. Would prefer if it was a Monday	Teacher
Renfrew High School	No	I do not work a Friday and it is unfair that the majority of the in-service days fall on a Friday	Teacher
Riverbrae School	Yes		Teacher
Riverbrae School	Yes	Preferable In-Service days on Mondays rather than Fridays.	
St Anne's Primary School	Yes	Return to school on a Friday does seem to be a little short.	Parent Council
St Catherine's Primary School	No	Returning in summer for session is in-service Wednesday and Thursday with pupils returning on a Friday. This will severely impact on attendance as parents/pupils will not attend for one day. The in-service days should be following Monday/Tuesday pupils returning Wednesday to ensure greater attendance.	Teacher
St Fillan's Primary School	Yes		Teacher
St Fillan's Primary School	Yes		Parent Council
St Fillan's Primary School	Yes		Pupil
St James's Primary School (Renf)	Yes		Teacher
St James's Primary School (Renf)	Yes		Teacher
St James's Primary School (Renf)	Yes		Teacher
St James's Primary School (Renf)	No	In service days after holidays not before -September weekend the weekend before as too close to October holiday -2 days at end of May for long weekend as always, not sure why only 1 planned	Teacher
St James's Primary School (Renf)	Yes		Teacher
St James's Primary School (Renf)	No Preference		Teacher
St James's Primary School (Renf)	Yes		Teacher

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St James's Primary School (Renf	No	We're unsure why there's been a change to the spring holidays which are normally the first two weeks of April, we thought this had been agreed previously for future years. We also don't think that it's good for pupils, that the first day of the new school year is a Friday, giving pupils particularly new pupils only 1 day at school before a weekend. We agree that a short week is beneficial but not only back for 1 day.	Parent Council
St John Bosco Primary School	Yes	We feel that a first day of session for children on a Friday is not ideal. Our preference would also be for in-service days to be after a holiday rather than before.	Teacher
St John Ogilvie Primary School	No	In-Service day after the holidays	Teacher
St John Ogilvie Primary School	Yes		Parent Council
St Peter's Primary School	Yes		Teacher
Thorn Primary School	Yes	A full two working week at christmas is always popular	Teacher
Thorn Primary School	No	Would prefer Inservice after a holiday. May weekend means that families cannot go away for a traditional break - ie Center Parcs as break only Friday to Monday.	Teacher
Todholm Primary School	Yes	1. Friday return to school for pupils on term one. 2. The September weekend is very close to the Oct break however I am not sure what the option would be given that Sept weekend is national, and we probably wouldn't want the October break being too late. 3. Easter break is very late but again, I think this has been dictated by Easter bank holiday weekend dates which are really late in 2025 4. Just a check that last day of term 3 is Friday 27 June? If not, it doesn't make sense to have school open for one day on a Monday.	Parent Council
Todholm Primary School	Yes	Teachers raised concerns about returning on a Friday.	Teacher
Todholm Primary School	Yes		Parent Council
Trinity High School	Yes		Teacher
Trinity High School	Yes		Pupil
Trinity High School	Yes		Parent Council
Wallace ELCC	Yes	I like that the in-service days are on a Friday and before the holidays.	Teacher
Wallace ELCC	No	For me, the 3/5 in-service days falling on a Friday is a concern. I generally try to attend all 5 regardless of my 0.8 contract.	Teacher
Wallace ELCC	Yes		Teacher
Wallace Primary School	No Preference		Teacher
Williamsburgh ELCC	Yes		Teacher
Williamsburgh ELCC	Yes		
Williamsburgh ELCC	Yes		Teacher
Williamsburgh Primary School	Yes		Teacher
Williamsburgh Primary School	No Preference	However having the pupils in for only one day and then the weekend, could be quite detrimental to those who struggle with transition. Parents may extend holidays to include the Friday and start them on the Monday.	Teacher
Williamsburgh Primary School	Yes		Teacher
Williamsburgh Primary School	Yes		Teacher
Williamsburgh Primary School	Yes		Teacher
Williamsburgh Primary School	Yes		Teacher
Williamsburgh Primary School	Yes		Teacher

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Williamsburgh Primary School	No	I would prefer the in-service day to be after the October holiday.	Teacher
Williamsburgh Primary School	Yes		Teacher
Williamsburgh Primary School	Yes		Parent Council
Woodlands Primary School	No Preference		
Woodlands Primary School	Yes		Teacher
Woodlands Primary School	Yes	One comment I would maybe make myself would be the return date for pupils after the summer holidays, is it being a Friday return. It almost seems a shame to get the children (and parents) hyped up/nervous/excited for one day to then go straight to the weekend, and potentially have kids be back at square one, on the Monday.	Parent Council
Woodlands Primary School	Yes		Pupil