

North Lanarkshire Council Report

Education, Children and Families Committee

Does this report require to be approved? Yes No

Ref BS

Date 20/05/25

School Term Review

From Barry Smedley, Chief Officer (Education – North)

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Executive Summary

Following a motion approved at the Council Committee on 3 October 2024, and a further report approved at the Education, Children and Families Committee on the 25th of February 2025, a school holiday consultation was recently undertaken. This consultation was to determine stakeholder views on school holiday arrangements from session 2026-2027 and beyond.

A previous consultation regarding school holiday arrangements was undertaken in April/May 2023, however, responses were low (circa 9,000 responses in total). This equated to circa 12.2% of eligible parent/ carers and circa 31.7% of eligible school-based staff completing the survey.

This report details the outcome of the current school holiday consultation.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee:

- 1) Note the outcome of the school holiday consultation.
- 2) Approves that future school holiday periods reflect the arrangements as detailed in Option A to reflect the responses from the majority of stakeholders.

The Plan for North Lanarkshire

Priority	Support all children and young people to realise their full potential
Ambition statement	(10) Engage with children, young people, parents, carers, and families to help all children and young people reach their full potential
Programme of Work	Brighter Futures

1. Background

- 1.1 Following a motion being approved on the 3rd of October 2024 at the Council Committee, and approval at the Education, Children and Families Committee on the 25th February, a consultation was launched in March 2025 to determine stakeholder views on North Lanarkshire's school holiday arrangements from session 2026-27 and beyond.
- 1.2 A previous consultation was carried out in 2023, however, the Service's view was the low turnout did not provide enough information to determine if this outcome was representative of the view across North Lanarkshire.
- 1.3 As noted in February's report, two options were presented for school holiday arrangements:
 - Option A was broadly in line with current arrangements and included the September weekend, one week in October, and a Monday and Tuesday holiday for the February mid-term break.
 - Option B offered alternative arrangements, with one day less at the September weekend, two weeks holiday in October, and a Friday/Monday holiday for the February mid-term break. Additionally, the February in-set day was moved to January, and holidays were reduced in December, April and May.
- 1.4 It is worth noting that with both options, staff would still work 195 days per academic session (August to June). 190 of these would be teaching days, with the remaining five being used by staff for professional development activity (In-Service Days).
- 1.5 Importantly, from the outset the service was clear that the overriding factor for consideration was that any proposed change to school holiday arrangements would '*ensure that there is no detriment to the education/teaching offering*' and the consultation was based on this principle.

2. Report

- 2.1 In line with [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010: guidance - gov.scot](#) advice, a consultation on school holiday arrangements is non-statutory, and as such, does not require a six-week consultation period.
- 2.2 A Microsoft Form was created to gather consultation responses, with a link to accompanying Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). This Form was live from Wednesday 19th March until Friday 4th April (a period of 17 days).
- 2.3 To maximise the number of responses received during the consultation period, a number of communication methods were utilised to ensure maximum reach. This included GroupCall messages to all parents, carers and staff, posts on social media platforms, emails to subscribers of school topics (28,420 subscribers), information on the Council's website (consultation section) and reminders in the Education and Families weekly bulletin.

2.4 A timeline of communication was developed and is detailed below:

Wednesday 19th March

- GroupCall messages issued to all North Lanarkshire (NL) parents, carers and staff
- Social media posts (NL's Facebook page and X platform)
- Emails issued to subscribers of NL school topics
- LinkedIn post
- NL's website updated

Thursday 20th March

- Email to all NL headteachers and central team

Friday 21st March

- Bulletin entry, asking headteachers to encourage pupils to respond, where appropriate

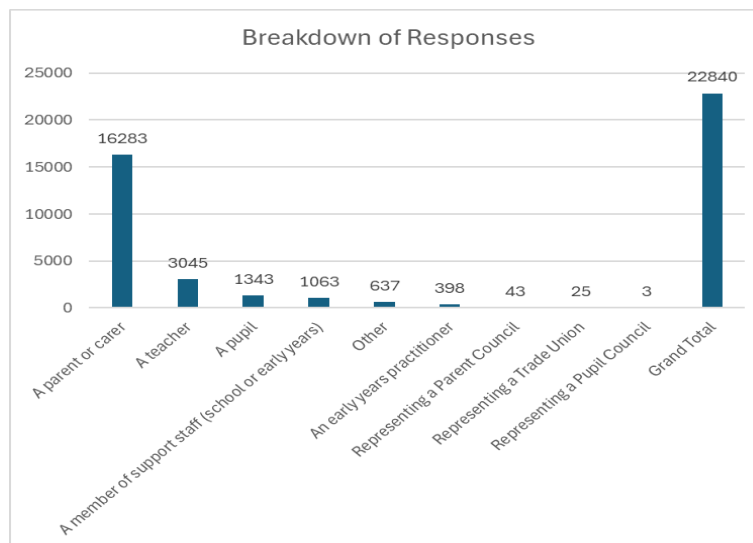
Friday 28th March

- Further GroupCall messages issued to all NL parents, carers and staff
- Further social media posts (NL's Facebook page and X platform)
- Further emails issued to subscribers of NL school topics
- Further bulletin entry

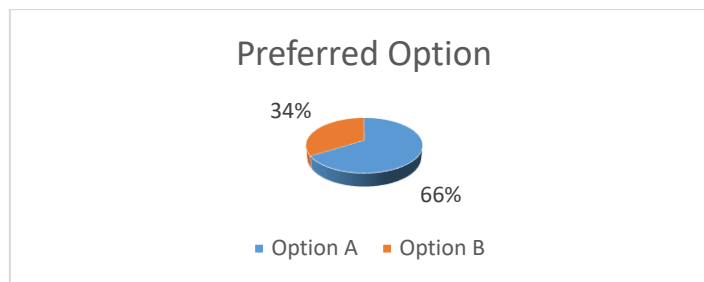
Wednesday 2nd April

- Final GroupCall messages issued to all NL parents, carers and staff
- Final social media post (NL's Facebook page)
- Final emails issued to all NL subscribers

2.5 Results of the consultation have now been collated and a total of 22,840 responses were received. This represents approximately a 250% increase in the total number of responses received during the previous consultation and equates to circa 32.62% of eligible parent/carers and circa 78.3% of eligible school-based/establishment staff completing the survey. The biggest response received was from parents and carers (approximately 71%), followed by teachers (approximately 13%). The breakdown of responses is noted below:



- 2.6 The results of the consultation indicate that the majority (66% of respondents who replied) of stakeholders prefer Option A. This is the option that is broadly in line with current arrangements. Full details of this option can be found at Appendix 1.



- 2.7 The responses are further broken down into the category of stakeholder in Table 1 below:

Stakeholder	Option A		Option B		Total
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	
Parent/ Carer	10445	45.7312%	5838	25.560%	16283
Teacher	2197	9.6191%	848	3.7128%	3045
Pupil	987	4.3214%	356	1.5587%	1343
Support Staff	768	3.3625%	295	1.2916%	1063
Other	388	1.6988%	249	1.0902%	637
Early Years	300	1.3135%	98	0.4291%	398
Parent Council Rep	33	0.1445%	10	0.0438%	43
Trade Union Rep	25	0.1095%	0	0%	25
Pupil Council Rep	1	0.0043%	2	0.0088%	3
	15144	66.3048%	7696	33.695%	22,840

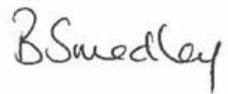
- 2.8 It is therefore recommended that future school holiday periods reflect the arrangements as detailed in Option A to reflect the responses from the majority of stakeholders.
- 2.9 As noted in February's paper, the results of this consultation will be communicated to all stakeholders in May 2025 following the Committee decision.

3. Measures of success

- 3.1 NL's school holiday arrangements represent the views of the majority of stakeholders.
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4. Supporting documentation

- 4.1 Appendix 1 – Breakdown of respondents by school
- 4.2 Appendix 2 – Contrast of Existing and Optional School Term 2026/27

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "BSmedley". The letters are cursive and somewhat slanted to the right.

Barry Smedley
Chief Officer (Education - North)

5. Impacts

5.1 Public Sector Equality Duty and Fairer Scotland Duty Does the report contain information that has an impact as a result of the Public Sector Equality Duty and/or Fairer Scotland Duty? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact? If Yes, has an assessment been carried out and published on the council's website? https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/your-community/equalities/equality-and-fairer-scotland-duty-impact-assessments Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
5.2 Financial impact Does the report contain any financial impacts? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant financial impacts been discussed and agreed with Finance? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?
5.3 HR policy impact Does the report contain any HR policy or procedure impacts? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant HR impacts been discussed and agreed with People Resources? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact? If there is an agreement to consider an optional school term then a full consultation will be undertaken with all affected staff.
5.4 Legal impact Does the report contain any legal impacts (such as general legal matters, statutory considerations (including employment law considerations), or new legislation)? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant legal impacts been discussed and agreed with Legal and Democratic? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?
5.5 Data protection impact Does the report / project / practice contain or involve the processing of personal data? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, is the processing of this personal data likely to result in a high risk to the data subject? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, has a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) been carried out and e-mailed to dataprotection@northlan.gov.uk Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
5.6 Technology / Digital impact Does the report contain information that has an impact on either technology, digital transformation, service redesign / business change processes, data management, or connectivity / broadband / Wi-Fi? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?

Where the impact identifies a requirement for significant technology change, has an assessment been carried out (or is scheduled to be carried out) by the Enterprise Architecture Governance Group (EAGG)?

Yes No

5.7 Environmental / Carbon impact

Does the report / project / practice contain information that has an impact on any environmental or carbon matters?

Yes No

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?

5.8 Communications impact

Does the report contain any information that has an impact on the council's communications activities?

Yes No

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?

If the recommendations of the report are agreed a full consultation exercise will be undertaken with all relevant parties.

5.9 Risk impact

Is there a risk impact?

Yes No

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the key risks and potential impacts, highlighting where the risk(s) are assessed and recorded (e.g. Corporate or Service or Project Risk Registers), and how they are managed?

It is hoped that any change would have a positive effect on attendance.

5.10 Armed Forces Covenant Duty

Does the report require to take due regard of the Armed Forces Covenant Duty (i.e. does it relate to healthcare, housing, or education services for in-Service or ex-Service personnel, or their families, or widow(er)s)?

Yes No

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the provision which has been made to ensure there has been appropriate consideration of the particular needs of the Armed Forces community to make sure that they do not face disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public services.

5.11 Children's rights and wellbeing impact

Does the report contain any information regarding any council activity, service delivery, policy, or plan that has an impact on children and young people up to the age of 18, or on a specific group of these?

Yes No

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact and the provision that has been made to ensure there has been appropriate consideration of the relevant Articles from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

As part of the consultation process, pupils will be provided with an opportunity to respond and share their views.

If Yes, has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) been carried out?

Yes No

Depending on the outcome of the consultation, a decision will be taken on whether a CRWIA is required.

Appendix One- Breakdown of Respondents by School/Establishment

NLC School Holiday Consultation April 2025		
Establishment Name	Establishment Type	Number of Responses
St Ambrose High School	High School	577
Greenfaulds High School	High School	514
St Andrew's High School	High School	491
Dalziel High School	High School	442
Airdrie Academy	High School	420
Caldervale High School	High School	403
Chryston High School	High School	379
St Maurice's High School	High School	358
Coatbridge High School	High School	355
No School/Establishment selected		347
Brannock High School	High School	344
Cumbernauld Academy	High School	334
St Aidan's High School	High School	331
St Margaret's High School	High School	331
Knowetop Primary School	Primary	328
Coltness High School	High School	318
Our Lady's High School - Cumbernauld	High School	312
Taylor High School	High School	301
Cumbernauld Primary School	Primary	286
Our Lady's High School - Motherwell	High School	282
Clyde Valley High School	High School	278
Stepps Primary School	Primary	268
Cathedral Primary School	Primary	264
Bellshill Academy	High School	249
Cardinal Newman High School	High School	246
Chryston Primary School	Primary	242
St Timothy's Primary School	Primary	226
Braidhurst High School	High School	207
Riverbank Primary School	Primary	200
Clarkston Primary School	Primary	194
Holy Cross Primary School	Primary	192
Rochsolloch Primary School	Primary	192
Calderhead High School	High School	191

Mossend Primary School	Primary	188
Ladywell Primary School	Primary	187
Glencairn Primary School	Primary	185
Hilltop Primary School	Primary	184
Balmalloch Primary School	Primary	182
Tannochside Primary School	Primary	170
Chapelhall Primary School	Primary	167
St Augustine's Primary School	Primary	167
Gartcosh Primary School	Primary	164
Kilsyth Academy	High School	160
St Aloysius' Primary School	Primary	159
Eastfield Primary School	Primary	158
Westfield Primary School	Primary	157
Baird Memorial Primary School	Primary	153
St Barbara's Primary School	Primary	152
St Helen's Primary School - Cumbernauld	Primary	151
St Stephen's Primary School - Coatbridge	Primary	151
Dykehead Primary School	Primary	150
St Aidan's Primary School	Primary	150
St Brendan's Primary School	Primary	149
St Kevin's Primary School	Primary	146
Greenhill Primary School	Primary	145
St Edward's Primary School	Primary	144
New Stevenston Primary School	Primary	137
Aitkenhead Primary School	Primary	136
St Michael's Primary School	Primary	136
Orchard Primary School	Primary	132
Calderbridge Primary school	Primary	131
Christ the King Primary School	Primary	131
St Lucy's Primary School	Primary	131
Glencryan School	ASN Primary	130
St Patrick's Primary School - Kilsyth	Primary	130
Wishaw Academy Primary School	Primary	129
St Andrew's Primary School - Cumbernauld	Primary	127
St Patrick's Primary School - Shotts	Primary	127
St John Paul II Primary School	Primary	126
Keir Hardie Memorial School	Primary	125
Glenmanor Primary School	Primary	124
Kildrum Primary School	Primary	124
Redburn School	ASN 3-18	124

St Patrick's Primary School - Coatbridge	Primary	123
Holytown Primary School	Primary	122
St Joseph's Primary School - Stepps	Primary	122
Woodlands Primary School	Primary	122
Firpark Primary School	ASN Primary	121
Muirhouse Primary School	Primary	120
Our Lady and St Francis Primary School	Primary	120
St Teresa's Primary School	Primary	116
Tollbrae Primary School	Primary	116
Golfhill Primary School	Primary	115
Langloan Primary School	Primary	112
Drumpark Primary School	Primary	110
St Gerard's Primary School	Primary	110
Abronhill Primary School	Primary	109
Holy Family Primary School	Primary	108
St Mary's Primary School - Coatbridge	Primary	108
St Thomas' Primary School - Wishaw	Primary	108
Noble Primary School	Primary	105
Whitelees Primary School	Primary	104
Stane Primary School	Primary	100
Condorrat Primary School	Primary	97
Lawmuir Primary School	Primary	97
St Ignatius' Primary School	Primary	97
St Patrick's Primary School - New Stevenston	Primary	97
Morningside Primary School	Primary	92
Ravenswood Primary School	Primary	92
Sacred Heart Primary School - Bellshill	Primary	91
Firpark Secondary School	ASN Secondary	90
St Dominic's Primary School and Nursery	Primary	90
New Monkland Primary School	Primary	88
All Saints Primary School	Primary	87
Glengowan Primary School - Caldercruix	Primary	86
Cambusnethan Primary School	Primary	85
Kirkshaws Primary School	Primary	82
Newmains Primary School	Primary	82
St Monica's Primary School	Primary	81
Netherton Primary School	Primary	79
St Margaret of Scotland Primary School	Primary	78
Buchanan High	ASN Secondary	76
Our Lady and St Joseph's Primary School	Primary	76

Alexander Peden Primary School	Primary	74
St Mary's Primary School - Cleland	Primary	74
Glenboig Primary School	Primary	73
St Brigid's Primary School	Primary	72
Victoria Primary School	Primary	72
Auchinloch Primary School	Primary	71
Berryhill Primary School	Primary	70
Bargeddie Primary School	Primary	69
St Serf's Primary School	Primary	68
Muir Street Primary School	Primary	66
St Andrew's Primary School - Airdrie	Primary	65
Newarthill Primary School	Primary	64
St David's Primary School	Primary	63
Thornlie Primary School	Primary	63
St Mary's Primary School - Cumbernauld	Primary	62
Kilsyth Primary School	Primary	61
St Bartholomew's Primary School	Primary	59
Chapelside Primary School	Primary	57
St Bernadette's Primary School	Primary	57
Greengairs Primary School	Primary	56
Logans Primary School	Primary	55
Allanton Primary School	Primary	53
Carbrain Primary School	Primary	52
St Bernard's Primary School	Primary	49
Calderbank Primary School	Primary	48
Cleland Primary School	Primary	48
Old Monkland Primary School	Primary	48
Clydeview School	ASN Primary	47
Townhead Primary School	Primary	47
Plains Primary School	Primary	45
Bothwellpark High School	High School	44
Shawhead Primary School	Primary	40
Corpus Christi Primary School	Primary	38
Kirk o' Shotts Primary School	Primary	33
Newmains Family Learning Centre	Early Years	31
St Mary's Primary School - Caldercruix	Primary	27
Ailsa Family Learning Centre	Early Years	26
Chapelgreen Primary School	Primary	25
Laburnum Family Learning Centre	Early Years	25
Shotts Family Learning Centre	Early Years	25

Banton Primary School	Primary	24
Kildrum Family Learning Centre	Early Years	24
Mavisbank School	ASN Secondary	24
Forgewood Family Learning Centre	Early Years	21
Stepping Stones Family Learning Centre	Early Years	21
St. Patrick's Family Learning Centre	Early Years	20
Netherton Family Learning Centre	Early Years	18
Richard Stewart Family Learning Centre	Early Years	17
Cumbernauld Village family Learning Centre	Early Years	16
Dunbeth Family Learning Centre	Early Years	16
Abernethyn Family Learning Centre	Early Years	15
Jigsaw Family Learning Centre	Early Years	15
Willowbank School	ASN Primary	15
Wishaw Family Learning Centre	Early Years	15
Bellshill Family Learning Centre	Early Years	14
Petersburn Family Learning Centre	Early Years	14
Shawhead Family Learning Centre	Early Years	14
Craigneuk Family Learning Centre	Early Years	13
Portland High School	ASN Secondary	13
Calderview Family Learning Centre	Early Years	11
Broomland Family Learning Centre	Early Years	10
Fallside Secondary School	ASN Secondary	10
Innerleithen Family Learning Centre	Early Years	9
Devonview Family Learning Centre	Early Years	6
Pentland School	ASN Primary	6
Virtual School	Virtual School	2

Appendix Two – Options proposed during NL’s school holiday consultation

Option A, Session 2026-2027– broadly based on existing school term arrangements. This option retains the traditional September weekend, one week in October and a Monday and Tuesday holiday for the February mid-term break.

WB	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	WB	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	WB	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	WB	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
						Oct 26	Pupils Return					Jan 18						Apr 12	H	Inset 5			
Aug 10	Inset 1	Inset 2	Pupils Return			Nov 2						Jan 25						Apr 19					
Aug 17						Nov 9						Feb 1						Apr 26					
Aug 24						Nov 16	Inset 3					Feb 8						May 3	H				
Aug 31						Nov 23						Feb 15	H	H	Inset 4			May 10					
Sep 7						Nov 30						Feb 22						May 17					
Sept 14						Dec 7						Mar 1						May 24					H
Sept 21					H	Dec 14				Schools close 2:30	H	Mar 8						May 31	H				
Sep 28	H					Dec 21	H	H	H	H	H	Mar 15						June 7					
Oct 5						Dec 28	H	H	H	H	H	Mar 22				2:30 close	H	June 14					
Oct 12	H	H	H	H	H	Jan 4	Pupils Return					Mar 29	H	H	H	H	H	June 21					Schools close 1.30
Oct 19						Jan 11						Apr 5	H	H	H	H	H	June 28	H	H	H	H	H

Option B, Session 2026-2027– alternative arrangements. This option results in one day less at the September weekend, an additional week in October and a Friday/Monday holiday for the February mid-term break, with the February inset moved to January. It also results in one day less holidays in December and April and two days less holidays in May.

Options Appraisal: Proposed School Holidays 2026/27																								
WB	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	WB	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	WB	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	WB	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	
						Oct 26	Pupils Return					Jan 18						Apr 12	Inset 5					
Aug 10	Inset 1	Inset 2	Pupils Return			Nov 2						Jan 25						Apr 19						
Aug 17						Nov 9						Feb 1						Apr 26						
Aug 24						Nov 16						Feb 8					H	May 3						
Aug 31						Nov 23	Inset 3					Feb 15	H					May 10						
Sep 7						Nov 30						Feb 22						May 17						
Sept 14						Dec 7						Mar 1						May 24						
Sept 21					H	Dec 14					Schools close 2:30	Mar 8						May 31	H					
Sep 28						Dec 21	H	H	H	H	H	Mar 15						June 7						
Oct 5						Dec 28	H	H	H	H	H	Mar 22				2:30 close	H	June 14						
Oct 12	H	H	H	H	H	Jan 4	Inset 4	Pupils return				Mar 29	H	H	H	H	H	June 21					Schools close 1.30	
Oct 19	H	H	H	H	H	Jan 11						Apr 5	H	H	H	H	H	June 28	H	H	H	H	H	

Difference Between Optional and Existing

- Lose 28th September (-1)
- Gain 19th – 23rd October (+5)
- Lose 18th December (-1)
- Change of February break to Friday and Monday as opposed to Monday and Tuesday.
- February Inset moved to January
- Lose Monday 12th April (-1)
- Lose 3rd and 28th May (-2)