



This is an open report

Decision Maker: Councillor Jenny Bullen, Portfolio Holder for Children and Families

Date of Decision: 13 January 2025

Subject: School Working Pattern 2026/27 and 2027/28

Report of: Cath Pealing, Assistant Director - Education

Contact Officer: Darren Thomas-Stanley (07887 630993)

Summary:

To agree the School Working pattern for academic years 2026-27 and 2027-28. To instruct the Assistant Director - Education to circulate the agreed school working patterns to all Wigan schools and:

- Inform community and voluntary controlled schools that the school working patterns for their school have been agreed.
- Request Academy, Foundation, Free and Voluntary-Aided schools adopt the same working pattern for their schools.

'Progress with Unity' Missions:

As residents, businesses, public services and community organisations of this borough we have come together to deliver two key missions:

Mission 1: Create fair opportunities for all children, families, residents & businesses.

"Together, we will break down the barriers that create financial, health, education and environmental inequalities in our borough."

Mission 2: Make all our towns and neighbourhoods flourish for those who live and work in them.

"Together, in genuine partnership with our residents and businesses, who know our community best, we will help each town and neighbourhood in the borough celebrate and maintain their identity whilst understanding and helping to achieve what is needed to thrive."

Outline how this report supports our 'Progress with Unity' missions:

The school working pattern aims to coordinate school holidays with as many schools and neighbouring Local Authorities as possible. Doing so increases the chances that families with children at different schools or adults that are affected by school holidays can spend time together and reduces the potential for disruption caused by holidays that don't align.



Wards Affected:

All.

Recommendation(s):

The Portfolio Holder for Children and Families is requested to:

- (1) consider and agree the proposed School Working Pattern for Community and Voluntary Schools detailed at Appendix 2 and Appendix 3; and
- (2) instruct the Assistant Director - Education to circulate the agreed school working pattern to all Wigan schools and:
 - inform community and voluntary controlled schools that the School Working Pattern for their school has been agreed; and
 - requests Academy, Foundation, Free and Voluntary-Aided schools to adopt the same working pattern for their schools.

Implications:

What are the financial implications?

None.

Is budget release necessary (Capital Expenditure Only)?

No.

What are the legal implications?

None.

What are the staffing implications?

None.

Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment attached or not required because (please give reason). If not required, then a relevance check needs to be completed.

Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment attached.

What are the property implications in terms of reduction, addition or change to the council's asset base or its occupation?

None.

What are the Corporate Parenting Implications?

None.

Risks:

Individual schools may deviate from the agreed patterns.

Sustainability/Environmental/Climate implications:

Wigan schools will have the agreed working patterns in advance to enable them to plan ahead.



Has the relevant Legal Officer confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council's Constitution?

Yes

Has the relevant Finance Officer confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council's budget?

Yes

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council?

No

What are the alternative option(s) to be considered? Please give the reason(s) for recommendation(s):

There are no alternative options to be considered – principles for setting the pattern already exist.

Is this a Key Decision and, if so, under which definition?

Yes.

2. to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more Wards or electoral divisions in the area of the local authority.

The Key decision made as a result of this report will be published within **two working days** and cannot be actioned until **five working days** have elapsed, unless exempt from call-in.

This item is included on the Forward Plan.

There are no background papers for this report.

Directorate Sign-off:	Catherine Pealing
Date:	17 th December 2024



Please list any appendices:

Appendix number or letter	Description
Appendix 1	Principles for setting the school working pattern.
Appendix 2	Proposed school working pattern for academic year 2026-27.
Appendix 3	Proposed school working pattern for academic year 2027-28.



1. Background:

- 1.1 Wigan Council is responsible for setting the school working pattern for community and voluntary controlled schools.
- 1.2 Academy, Foundation, Free and Voluntary Aided schools are responsible for setting their own school working patterns.
- 1.3 Legislation prescribes that there are 190 pupil teaching days per academic year, there are no regulations as to what the actual dates should be.
- 1.4 In the interests of consistency of term dates for parents (families), school staff and local communities, a set of principles for setting term dates were agreed in 2013 following consultation with all stakeholders. These principles are attached at appendix 1.

2. Proposals:

The Portfolio Holder is requested to:

- Consider and agrees the proposed school working patterns for 2026-27 and 2027-28 for community and voluntary schools detailed at appendix 2 and appendix 3.
- Instruct the Assistant Director - Education to circulate the agreed school working pattern to all Wigan schools and:
 - Inform community and voluntary controlled schools that the school working pattern for their school has been agreed.
 - Requests Academy, Foundation, Free and Voluntary-Aided schools to adopt the same working pattern for their schools.

3. Conclusions:

The Portfolio Holder is requested to consider and agree the draft school working patterns for 2026-27 and 2027-28.



Equality Impact Assessment of a Strategy

Service: Education

Section: School Organisation

Responsible Officer: Darren Stanley, Policy and Projects Manager, School Organisation Team

Name of strategy assessed: School Working Pattern 2026-27 and 2027-28

Date of Assessment: 13th December 2024

Officers Involved: Darren Stanley, Policy and Projects Manager, School Organisation Team

1. **What is the purpose of the strategy?**
To agree the school working pattern for community and voluntary controlled schools for the academic year 2026-27 and 2027-28.
2. **Who are the key stakeholders?**
Schools, children of school age, parents and school staff.
3. **Are there any other documents/strategies linked to this strategy?**
School working pattern principles – appendix 1 to the report.
4. **Which need/s is the strategy designed to meet?**
LA statutory duty to set the school working pattern for community and voluntary controlled schools.
5. **Has a needs analysis been undertaken?**
No.
6. **Who is affected by the strategy?**
Children of school age, parents and school staff.
7. **Who has been involved in the development of the strategy and who has been consulted? State your consultation/involvement methodology.**
The school working pattern consultation group which comprised representatives from Primary schools; Secondary schools; Special schools; religious diocese; teaching unions and governors.
8. **What data have you considered for this assessment and have any gaps in the data been identified. What action will be taken to close any data gaps?**
N/A



9. What impact will the strategy have on all the protected groups?

- Race Equality
- Disabled People
- Carers
- Sex
- Age
- Armed Forces Personnel
- Religion or Belief
- Sexual Orientation
- Gender Reassignment
- Pregnant Women or Those on Maternity Leave
- Marriage or Civil Partnership
- Socioeconomic disadvantaged
- Looked after children and care leavers

Parents/carers individual circumstances relating to children being on holiday from school.

10. What are your main conclusions from this analysis?

No equality impact issues exist.

11. What are your recommendations?

The Portfolio Holder is recommended to:

- Consider and agrees the proposed school working patterns for community and voluntary schools detailed at appendix 2 and appendix 3.
- Instruct the Assistant Director - Education to circulate the agreed school working pattern to all Wigan schools and:
 - Inform community and voluntary controlled schools that the school working pattern for their school has been agreed.
 - Requests Academy, Foundation, Free and Voluntary-Aided schools to adopt the same working pattern for their schools.

12. What equality targets and actions have you set based on the findings of this assessment? Please attach an action plan including details of designated officers responsible for completing these actions.

None.

Signed (Completing Officer): Darren Thomas-Stanley

Date: 13/12/2024

Signed (Assistant Director): Cath Pealing

Date: 16/12/2024