

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT – SCHOOL TERM DATES

SECTION ONE: INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSAL

Author(s): The person completing the EIA template.	Sharon Stowe	Department and service:	Education, Participation & Skills	Date of assessment:	9 January 2026
Lead Officer: Head of Service, Service Director, or Strategic Director.	Amanda Davis	Signature:		Approval date:	29/01/2026
Overview:	<p>The Equality Act (2010) extended statutory protection across nine ‘protected characteristics’. It recognised new forms of discrimination and introduced the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). Those organisations subject to the PSED must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to promote equality and specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other prohibited conduct; • advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not; • and promote good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don’t. <p>The Equality Act states that we must exercise due regard to equality when we make decisions, in a way that is reasonable and proportionate to the decision being taken. To discharge this duty and demonstrate our commitment to promoting equality, we have completed an equality impact assessment (EIA).</p> <p>School term and holiday dates are set out by the local authority for Community and Voluntary controlled (VC) schools and maintained nursery schools. Own admission authority schools may not follow the term dates set by the local authority. However, as in previous years, we have consulted on and publicised term dates and will recommend that all schools in Plymouth adopt them. Both Devon County Council and Cornwall County Council are proposing to take the same approach.</p> <p>Promoting standard school term dates and holiday calendars will help ensure that the holiday dates of parents and children coincide and help safeguard the health, safety and wellbeing of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children, supporting them to make the most of their learning. Co-ordinating dates with neighbouring authorities will help reduce unauthorised pupil absence and prevent/reduce crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour by ensuring that the holiday dates of parents and children coincide.</p> <p>Coordinating term dates with neighbouring authorities and standardising the length of terms promote planning and learning opportunities; support school staff in improving school performance; reduce stress levels of school staff with children at school in neighbouring authorities.</p>				

Decision required:	To approve the proposed school term and holiday dates for 2027-2028.
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SECTION TWO: EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCREENING TOOL

Potential external impacts: Does the proposal have the potential to negatively impact service users, communities or residents with protected characteristics?	Yes		No	x
Potential internal impacts: Does the proposal have the potential to negatively impact Plymouth City Council employees?	Yes		No	x
Is a full Equality Impact Assessment required? (if you have answered yes to either of the questions above then a full impact assessment is required, and you must complete section three)	Yes		No	x
If you do not agree that a full equality impact assessment is required, please set out your justification for why not.	No adverse impacts are anticipated.			

SECTION THREE: FULL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Protected characteristics (Equality Act, 2010)	Evidence and information (e.g. data and consultation feedback)	Adverse impact	Mitigation activities	Timescale and responsible department
Age	<p>Plymouth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16.4 per cent of people in Plymouth are children aged under 15. • 65.1 per cent are adults aged 15 to 64. • 18.5 percent are adults aged 65 and over. • 2.4 percent of the resident population are 85 and over. <p>South West</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15.9 per cent of people are aged 0 to 14, 61.8 per cent are aged 15 to 64. • 22.3 per cent are aged 65 and over. <p>England</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17.4 per cent of people are aged 0 to 14. • 64.2 per cent of people are aged 15 to 64. • 18.4 per cent of people are aged 65 and over. <p>(2021 Census)</p>		Not applicable	Not applicable

<p>Care experienced individuals</p> <p>(Note that as per the Independent Review of Children's Social Care recommendations, Plymouth City Council is treating care experience as though it is a protected characteristic).</p>	<p>It is estimated that 26 per cent of the homeless population in the UK have care experience. In Plymouth there are currently 7 per cent of care leavers open to the service (6 per cent aged 18-20 and 12 per cent of those aged 21+) who are in unsuitable accommodation.</p> <p>The Care Review reported that 41 per cent of 19-21 year old care leavers are not in education, employment or training (NEET) compared to 12 per cent of all other young people in the same age group.</p> <p>In Plymouth there are currently 50 per cent of care leavers aged 18-21 Not in Education Training or Employment (54 per cent of all those care leavers aged 18-24 who are open to the service).</p> <p>There are currently 195 care leavers aged 18 to 20 (statutory service) and 58 aged 21 to 24 (extended offer). There are more care leavers aged 21 to 24 who could return for support from services if they wished to.</p>		Not applicable	Not applicable
<p>Disability</p>	<p>9.4 per cent of residents in Plymouth have their activities limited 'a lot' because of a physical or mental health problem.</p> <p>12.2 per cent of residents in Plymouth have their activities limited 'a little' because of a physical or mental health problem (2021 Census)</p>		Not applicable	Not applicable

Gender reassignment	0.5 per cent of residents in Plymouth have a gender identity that is different from their sex registered at birth. 0.1 per cent of residents identify as a trans man, 0.1 per cent identify as non-binary and, 0.1 per cent identify as a trans women (2021 Census).		Not applicable	Not applicable
Marriage and civil partnership	40.1 per cent of residents have never married and never registered a civil partnership. 10 per cent are divorced, 6 percent are widowed, with 2.5 per cent are separated but still married. 0.49 per cent of residents are, or were, married or in a civil partnerships of the same sex. 0.06 per cent of residents are in a civil partnerships with the opposite sex (2021 Census).		Not applicable	Not applicable
Pregnancy and maternity	The total fertility rate (TFR) for England was 1.62 children per woman in 2021. The total fertility rate (TFR) for Plymouth in 2021 was 1.5.		Not applicable	Not applicable

Race	<p>In 2021, 94.9 per cent of Plymouth's population identified their ethnicity as White, 2.3 per cent as Asian and 1.1 per cent as Black (2021 Census)</p> <p>People with a mixed ethnic background comprised 1.8 per cent of the population. 1 per cent of the population use a different term to describe their ethnicity (2021 Census)</p> <p>92.7 per cent of residents speak English as their main language. 2021 Census data shows that after English, Polish, Romanian, Chinese, Portuguese, and Arabic are the most spoken languages in Plymouth (2021 Census).</p>		Not applicable	Not applicable
Religion or belief	<p>48.9 per cent of the Plymouth population stated they had no religion. 42.5 per cent of the population identified as Christian (2021 Census).</p> <p>Those who identified as Muslim account for 1.3 per cent of Plymouth's population while Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish or Sikh combined totalled less than 1 per cent (2021 Census).</p>		Not applicable	Not applicable
Sex	<p>51 per cent of our population are women and 49 per cent are men (2021 Census).</p>		Not applicable	Not applicable
Sexual orientation	<p>88.95 per cent of residents aged 16 years and over in Plymouth describe their sexual orientation as straight or heterosexual. 2.06 per cent describe their sexuality as bisexual, 1.97 per cent of people describe their sexual orientation as gay or lesbian. 0.42 per cent of residents describe their sexual orientation using a different term (2021 Census).</p>		Not applicable	Not applicable

SECTION FOUR: HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

Human Rights	Implications	Mitigation Actions	Timescale and responsible department
		Not applicable	Not applicable

SECTION FIVE: OUR EQUALITY OBJECTIVES

Equality objectives	Implications	Mitigation Actions	Timescale and responsible department
Work together in partnership to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ promote equality, diversity and inclusion ▪ facilitate community cohesion ▪ support people with different backgrounds and lived experiences to get on well together 		Not applicable	Not applicable
Give specific consideration to care experienced people to improve their life outcomes, including access to training, employment and housing.		Not applicable	Not applicable
Build and develop a diverse workforce that represents the community and citizens it serves.		Not applicable	Not applicable
Support diverse communities to feel confident to report crime and anti-social behaviour, including hate crime and hate incidents, and work with partners to ensure Plymouth is a city where everybody feels safe and welcome.		Not applicable	Not applicable