



Early Years, Education & Skills

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To All Headteachers, Principals & Governors of
Infant, Junior, Primary and Secondary Schools
Principals of All Academies
Primary Special and Secondary Special Schools

Dear Colleague

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED SCHOOL CALENDAR 2026/27 AND YEAR 7 TRANSITION DAYS

FOR INFORMATION & ACTION

Section 32 of the Education Act 2002 requires the Local Authority to determine the dates when the school terms and holidays are to begin and end for schools under its control (i.e. **Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools**) for the 2026/27 academic year.

Schools that are their own Admission Authorities may set their own term dates. It is however desirable if there is a common set of dates across the City, at least for the main holidays.

Headteachers and Governors are invited to respond to the proposed term dates for the 2026/27 academic year. The proposed calendar will also be placed on the Council website, but it would be helpful if you could **also circulate the proposal to your parents and carers or place on the school website**.

The school calendar must consist of 195 days, 5 of which are designated teacher training days. The Local Authority's proposed term dates for 2026/27 are attached at **Appendix A**.

There continues to be a high level of support for the fixing of the Easter Break at the beginning of April the Authority is consulting on a single model which fixes the Easter break.

The Easter Bank holidays in 2027 are **Friday 26 March and Monday 29 March**. The last day of term will be **Thursday 25 March 2027**.

A final decision on the term dates will be taken by Education, Children and Families Committee, your responses are important so please take the opportunity to contribute to the final calendar. The deadline for responses is **21 February 2025**.

The Authority also proposes **transition dates** for pupils prior to secondary transfer. It has become more common for schools to make their own arrangements for transition days. Historically the first Wednesday Thursday of July was designated for this purpose to promote greater consistency across the City. Further details are provided below.

Current Principles Behind Setting Term Dates

The key principles to setting the calendar are:

- The Autumn half term break will be the five days which are the last period Monday to Friday in October/November. According to the year, October half term can start as early as Monday 21 and as late as Monday 27 October.
- The Christmas break will be at least 10 weekdays, and will normally start at the end of the school day on the Friday, which is on, or otherwise immediately prior to, 22 December. It will include the New Year's day holiday which is outside that period, and the day after New Years Day, where this is a weekday.
- The February half term holiday will be five days Monday to Friday, which divides the term as far as possible into two equal parts. Where there are an odd number of weeks the second half term will be the shorter of the two.
- The Easter break will normally be fixed at the first two weeks in late March or beginning of April to support the creation of more even half terms.
- The Spring Bank half term will be five days Monday to Friday from the statutory holiday which falls as the last Monday in May.
- Where a term is of uneven length, the second half term will be the shorter of the two.

Neighbouring Authorities

	October half term	Christmas	February half term	Easter	Spring Bank
Sheffield	26 October – 30 October	21 December – 1 January	15 – 19 February	26 March – 9 April	31 May
Derbyshire	26 October – 30 October	21 December – 1 January	15 – 19 February	26 March – 9 April	31 May
Doncaster	26 October – 30 October	21 December – 1 January	15 – 19 February	26 March – 9 April	31 May
Rotherham	26 October – 30 October	21 December – 1 January	15 – 19 February	26 March – 9 April	31 May
Barnsley	26 October – 30 October	21 December – 1 January	15 – 19 February	26 March – 9 April	31 May

Fixed Easter Model (proposed)

- 1 September 2026 to 23 October 2026 (39 days)
- 2 November 2026 to 18 December 2026 (35 days)
- 4 January 2027 to 12 February 2027 (30 days)
- 22 February 2027 to 27 March 2027 (24 days)
- 12 April 2027 to 28 May 2027 (34 days)
- 7 June 2027 to 21 July 2027 (33 days).

Bank Holidays

- 25 and 28 December 2026 (Christmas and Boxing Day)
- 1 January 2027 (New Year's Day)
- 26 March 2027 (Good Friday)
- 29 March 2027 (Easter Monday)
- 3 May 2027 (May Day)
- 31 May 2027 (spring bank holiday)

- 30 August 2027 (summer bank holiday).

Transition Days

The Authority proposes to recommend specific dates for transition visits prior to the transfer to secondary schools. This proposal has been historically advocated by Headteacher representative groups. For the 2026/27 September intake the proposed transition days are **Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th July 2027**.

This should give sufficient time for all schools to set these days in their planning arrangements for 2026/27. **Please note that these dates are not compulsory, they are recommended in order to streamline the transition process, but schools are free to make their own arrangements.**

Religious Observance

All schools must provide 190 teaching days and 5 development days. Within the school calendar however there may be flexibility to enable schools to observe religious observance both for pupils and staff.

The Executive Director and Lead Cabinet Member are keen to ensure that there is sufficient flexibility within the school calendar to accommodate religious observance and are keen to receive your comments on how such arrangements may be accommodated. I attach a briefing note (**Appendix B**) in which there are some suggestions to facilitate religious observance based on practices in other Authorities and current practice in some of our own schools.

Any days proposed for closure due to religious observance should be discussed first with the Governing Body taking into account the cohesion of the local community.

What Happens Next?

Following consultation, the final recommended calendar will be presented to the Education & Families Committee on 1 April 2025. Following determination, the approved calendar will be circulated to all schools. It will then be a matter for each individual Governing Body of schools and academies that are their own admission authorities to determine whether it will adopt the recommended model or set its own calendar. If your Governing Body is considering a significant departure from the recommended model, you are advised that you should undertake a full consultation with parents, the Local Authority and other interested stakeholders prior to it being determined. You are advised to complete any consultation and set the term dates before the end of the summer term 2025.

If you have any comments on the proposed school calendar or transition dates, I should be pleased to receive them by **21 February 2025**.

Please send your response to admissionsconsultation@sheffield.gov.uk

Yours sincerely



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