

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

18 SEPTEMBER 2025

**REPORT OF SENIOR
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

Children and Young People - Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Clare Besford

SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2026/2027

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is, following consultation, to present the proposed calendars of school term and holiday dates for 2026/2027 academic year.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)/DECISION(S)

To inform all schools and interested parties of the school term and holiday dates for 2026/2027 academic year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the school term and holiday dates 2026/2027 shown at **Appendix 1** to this report, be agreed.

DETAIL

1. School employers are required to set the term dates of their school year. Employers are:
 - the Local Authority in maintained, voluntary controlled and maintained special schools.
 - the Governing Body in foundation and voluntary aided schools.
 - Multi Academy Trusts, academies and free schools.
2. In line with statutory requirements and the protocol agreed in 2008, consideration has been given to compile a set of term and holiday dates for schools in the Borough.
3. Officers consulted with colleagues from all neighbouring authorities to endeavour to reach consensus on a proposed model for the academic year.
4. Attached as **Appendix 1** are the proposed dates for 2026/2027.
5. As part of the consultation process these documents were duly circulated to schools/academies and all other relevant parties, including Diocesan Authorities and Trade Unions/Teaching Associations. There were no comments received, details are provided at **Appendix 2**.
6. To date the neighbouring authorities that have published their dates have endorsed the proposed matrix for 2026/2027. This level of agreement between authorities will relieve many of the cross-boundary issues that some families have suffered in the past.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

This report has been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment and has been judged to have a negative impact. This has been judged necessary because the pattern of school holidays around the christian festivals of Christmas and Easter and a long summer break between years is a national pattern that cannot be varied significantly locally or regionally. Exams and national tests together with School Teachers Pay and Conditions dictate the broad framework leaving only changes at the margins determined locally. Remedial actions have been identified and included in the EIA action plan.

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

As outlined in paragraph 8, the joint agreement of the 2026/2027 matrices will ensure that, where children, families and carers live in one Borough, but the children attend school in another, there is a consistency across the area.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The recommendations comply with the requirements of the Education (School Day and School Year) (England) Regulations 1999 and the Education Act 2002 (Part 3, Chapter 1, Para 32)

RISK ASSESSMENT

The School Term and Holiday Dates 2026/2027 are categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS

All schools and academies, Teacher Associations and Trade Unions, Neighbouring Local Authorities and Diocesan Authorities.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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