



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:
2 JUNE 2026

LEICESTERSHIRE SCHOOL TERM DATES
AUTUMN 2027 TO SUMMER 2032

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Committee's views on proposed Leicestershire school term and holiday dates covering the period from autumn 2027 to summer 2032 for schools maintained by the local authority.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. Term dates are determined by school employers following public consultation, as is set out in the Education (School Day and School Year) (England) Regulations 1999.
3. As the local authority is the employer for community, voluntary controlled and community special schools, any changes to agreed term time dates proposed by such schools must be agreed in advance by the Director of Children and Family Services.
4. Leicestershire's term dates were last reviewed by the Cabinet in September 2021 when it was agreed that they would follow the traditional Leicestershire pattern for the period autumn 2022 to summer 2027.
5. The Cabinet at its meeting on 24 March 2026 considered a report regarding a proposed consultation on three potential models for Leicestershire school term and holiday dates. The Cabinet agreed that it did not support a model that would impact on the "*Leicestershire fortnight*" and asked that the other two models be reconsidered and presented to the Cabinet at its next meeting in April, prior to a consultation process being undertaken.
6. On 28 April 2026, the Cabinet approved a consultation to be undertaken on two proposed term date models for Leicestershire for the academic years 2027/28 to 2031/32. It was also agreed that a further report be taken to the Cabinet meeting on 8 September 2026 presenting the outcomes of the consultation and the recommended term date model.

Background

7. The local authority is responsible for setting school term dates for all maintained schools, which includes all community and voluntary controlled schools and community special schools, under Section 32 of the Education Act 2002.
8. There are 285 state-funded schools in Leicestershire. Of these, 24% are maintained, including 65 primary schools and 2 special schools. All other state-funded schools within the County, including all secondary schools, are academies.
9. Following the Deregulation Act 2015, academies are responsible for setting their own term dates. In practice, the majority of schools in Leicestershire tend to follow the pattern set by the County Council, although some schools have moved away from the traditional Leicestershire term date pattern.
10. Schools in England must be open to pupils for 190 days in an academic year and 195 days for teachers.
11. The County Council sets term date patterns for 190 days, providing all schools in the County, including those maintained by the Council, with the flexibility to identify five staff training days (often known as inset days) outside of the 190 days the school is open to pupils each academic year. While this approach is in contrast to neighbouring authorities which include suggested inset days in their term date patterns, it enables maintained schools to, where possible, align their inset days with other schools in their local area.
12. Home to school transport is provided on the days that schools are open to pupils.
13. The County Council has previously worked with Leicester City Council to set proposed dates for future academic years. This approach has been in place for a number of years to ensure that school term dates are aligned where possible to minimise the impact on families and school transport providers working across both areas.
14. The traditional term date pattern for Leicester and Leicestershire reflected the County's industrial heritage and included the Leicestershire Workers' July Fortnight, a county-wide holiday period introduced in 1965 where factories and businesses closed for the first two weeks of July to enable workers to avoid peak holiday periods. The July fortnight shutdown period is no longer widely observed as a result of the changing nature of employment and industry in the County.
15. Following the most recent term date consultation in 2021, Leicestershire maintained schools retained an early July finish to the school year, which is around two weeks earlier than some adjoining local authorities. Previous term dates for 2022/23 to 2026/27 are set out in Appendix A attached to this report.

Proposed Term Date Models for Autumn 2027 to Summer 2032

16. Leicestershire County Council, in collaboration with Leicester City Council, has developed two potential term date models for the five academic years between autumn 2027 and summer 2032. The proposed dates are set out in Appendix B

attached to this report. All proposed models provide for 190 school days. The proposed dates have also been shared with Rutland Council.

17. Many families like Leicestershire's traditional approach, which includes a very early summer break which can mean potentially cheaper family holidays.
18. Taking into account the ongoing popularity of the existing term date model, both proposed term date models for the County Council retain the existing early July finish to the school year which is around 2 weeks earlier than neighbouring local authorities.
19. It should be noted that, while the County Council has worked closely with Leicester City Council on proposed term date patterns for autumn 2027 to summer 2032, the models developed for consultation are slightly different across both local authority areas. All proposed dates for October half-term, Christmas break, February half-term, Easter break and May half-term are aligned to those proposed by Leicester City Council. However, the City Council has proposed a slightly later start to the summer school holidays than patterns proposed by the County Council.
20. As part of their consultation, the City Council has proposed to start the summer holidays 1 week later than the County Council in July 2028, and 2 days later in each subsequent school year. Leicestershire County Council patterns ensure that the school year finishes around 2 weeks earlier than neighbouring local authorities.
21. The proposed models for consultation detailed in Appendix A to this report are as follows:
 - **Model 1:** retains the historic term date pattern with a very early summer break and a one-week autumn half-term.
 - **Model 2:** retains the same very early summer break as Model 1, with an earlier return to school in August proposed to accommodate a two-week autumn half-term.
22. The current 6-week summer break means schools in the County see a rise in child protection referrals; it also results in a loss of learning, and some families also struggle with the cost of childcare. The existing pattern includes terms of significantly different lengths, with a longer autumn term which children can struggle to manage, impacting their attendance, and shorter spring and summer terms.
23. The consultation asks for views as to whether Leicestershire should keep the historic pattern or move to the alternative model which would introduce a 2-week October half-term to help to address some of these concerns while retaining the same early summer break previously favoured by Leicestershire families.
24. Both options aim to ensure a similar number of days for the spring and summer terms. This means that while the Good Friday and Easter Monday bank holidays will be maintained and will be incorporated into the Easter holiday period, the two-week break may not always follow the traditional Easter pattern of the bank holidays being on the middle weekend of the two-week break. Depending on the timing of Easter, the Easter bank holidays may sometimes fall at the beginning or end of the holiday period.

Consultation

25. A public consultation is seeking feedback on the two potential term date models to inform a recommended model for implementation. The consultation began on 5 May and will run up to 15 June 2026 and is being carried out primarily using an online survey, which is also available in accessible print versions on request. An online survey is being used to maximise the number of responses, with the survey link shared with schools and parents as well as through social media to ensure a wide range of views.
26. The consultation is aligned with a consultation on term dates for Leicester City Council, although each council will be consulting on slightly different term date models. The consultations are running independently to the same time scales.
27. Consultation feedback will be jointly reviewed by officers from both the County Council and Leicester City Council following the closure of the consultation period to consider opportunities to align dates where this is practical. Recommendations will be presented to the respective decision-making bodies of both Councils, with ultimate decision-making remaining the responsibility of each local authority.

Resource Implications

28. There are no resource implications arising from this report. The cost of implementing the agreed term time pattern following approval by the Cabinet forms part of the existing Children and Family Services budget allocation.

Timetable for Decisions

29. A 6-week consultation on the potential term date models commenced on 5 May and will run until 15 June 2026.
30. It is intended that the Cabinet will receive a further report at its meeting on 8 September 2026 summarising consultation feedback and presenting a recommended term date model for approval.

Background papers

Report to the Cabinet on 17 September 2021 "Leicestershire School Term-Time Patterns from Autumn 2022 to Summer 2027"

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/documents/s163631/Term%20Dates%20Consultation.pdf>

Report to the Cabinet on 24 March 2026 "Leicestershire School Term Dates Autumn 2027 to Summer 2032"

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=8305>

Report to the Cabinet on 28 April 2026 "Leicestershire School Term Dates Autumn 2027 to Summer 2032"

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=8306&Ver=4>

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

31. This report has been circulated to all Members of the County Council.

Equality Implications

32. An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been completed to consider the impact of the proposed term date patterns on individuals with protected characteristics which is attached as Appendix C to this report. There are no adverse equality implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Human Rights Implications

33. There are no human rights implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Partnership Implications

34. The proposed school term date patterns have been developed in collaboration with Leicester City Council to align dates where possible across both areas.

Appendices

Appendix A - Previous school term dates for 2022/23 to 2026/27

Appendix B - Proposed school term dates for autumn 2027 to summer 2032

Appendix C - Equality Impact Assessment

Officer(s) to Contact

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