

Leicestershire school term dates 2027/28 to 2031/32

Consultation Findings

July 2026

Purpose of the Report

To share the results and feedback from the consultation on proposed Leicestershire school term and holiday dates for community, voluntary controlled and community special schools for the academic years 2027/28 to 2031/32.

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Purpose of the consultation

To engage with parents, grandparents and carers, school staff and governors, students, early years providers, local communities and other partners to understand their views on proposed term dates for autumn 2027 to summer 2032 and to consider these views in developing a final term date model for recommendation to Cabinet.

Method of engagement

Who

The consultation aimed to seek the views of parents, grandparents and carers, school staff and governors, students, early years providers, local communities and other partners.

How

Online: All visitors to the council's website during the consultation period were invited to complete the consultation survey which was visible on the 'have your say' page of the Council's website.

Paper: A paper copy of the survey was made available upon request to ensure all local people wishing to take part in the consultation were able to.

The media: Multiple media releases were sent out which were picked up by a number of media outlets to encourage local people to provide their views.

Social media: Messages encouraging people to take part in the consultation were sent out via the Council's Facebook pages and via LinkedIn

Targeted communications were sent to:

- Head Teachers across Leicestershire for onward circulation to parents and carers via school newsletters. An item was also included on Head Teacher forum meetings during the consultation period.
- Elected Members. All elected members received the press release advising them of the start of the consultation. In addition the Children & Families Scrutiny Committee received a report as part of the consultation exercise at its meeting on 2 June 2026 inviting them to comment on the proposed term date models.
- All were invited to comment on the Strategy via the survey link or to request a paper copy of the survey.

Questions asked within the survey:

Q1 Which of the two proposed options for school term dates (for community controlled, voluntary controlled and community special schools in Leicestershire) would you prefer?

Q1a Please briefly explain your answer

Q2 How important is it to you that school term dates are the same in Leicestershire County and Leicester City?

Q2a Please briefly explain your answer

Q3 In what role are you responding to this consultation?

Q3a Please specify 'other'

Q4 Are you providing your organisations official response to the consultation?

Q5a Name

Q5b Organisation

Q6 If you or a child you care for attend a school, where are they located?

Q7 If you work at a school, where is it located?

Q8 Where do you live?

Q9 Which district do you live in?

Q10 What is your full postcode?

When

The consultation exercise ran from 5 May to 15 June 2026 via the method outlined above.

Findings from the Consultation

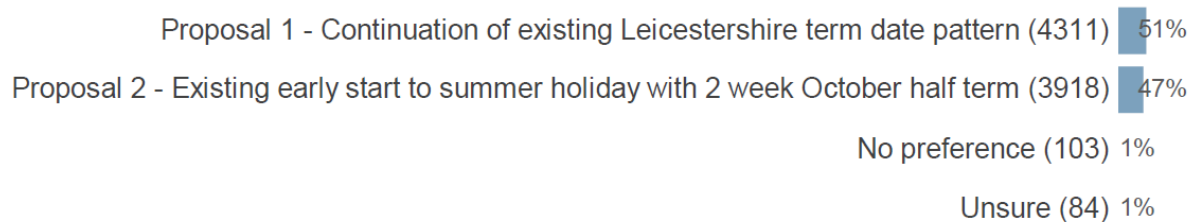
8,432 surveys were returned during the consultation period. All were submitted online. During the consultation period, there were no requests for paper versions of the survey.

Responses to questions around the proposed term date models

Question 1:

Which of the two proposed options for school term dates (for community controlled, voluntary controlled and community special schools in Leicestershire) would you prefer?

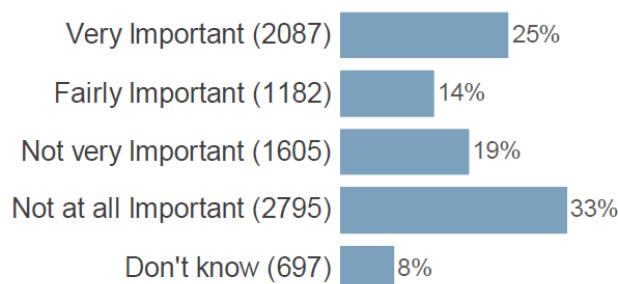
Please select one option only.



Question 2:

How important is it to you that school term dates are the same in Leicestershire County and Leicester City?

Please select one option only.

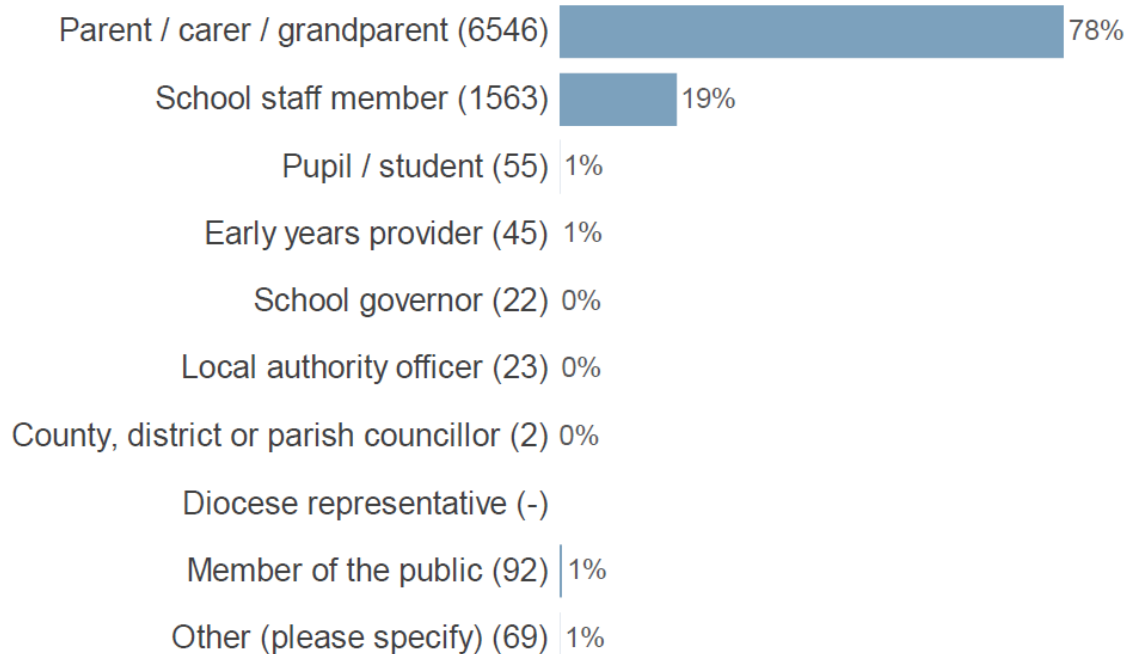


About respondents

Question 3:

In what role are you responding to this consultation?

Please select one option only.



Question 4:

Are you providing your organisations official response to the consultation?

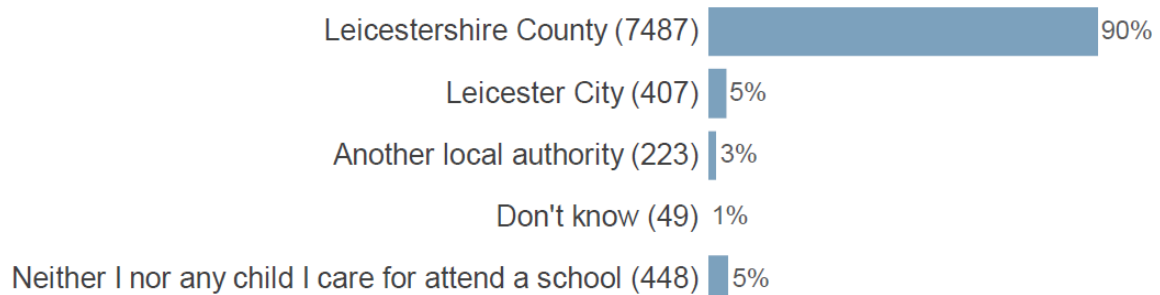
Please select one option only.



Question 6:

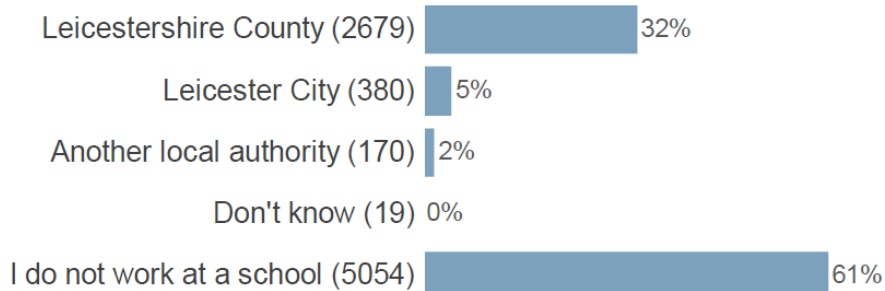
If you or a child you care for attend a school, where are they located?

Please select all that apply.

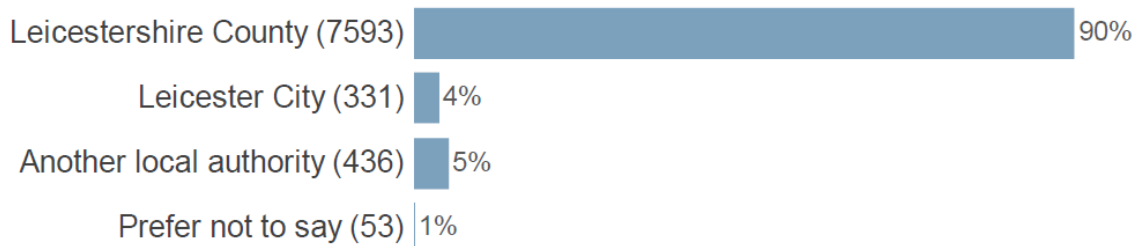


Question 7:

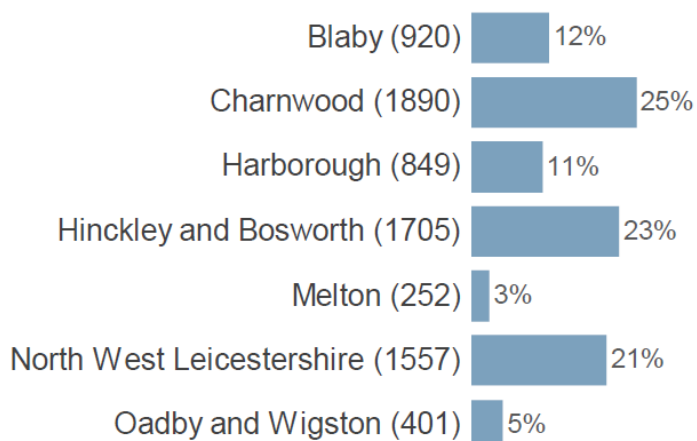
If you work at a school, where is it located?
Please select one option only.

**Question 8:**

Where do you live?
Please select one option only.

**Question 9:**

Which district do you live in?
Please select one option only.

**Analysis of responses by respondent type****Leicestershire District**

Almost all areas of the County showed a clear preference for Option 1, with the preference for this model highest in North West Leicestershire at 55.6%, Melton at 53.2% and Charnwood at 52.5%. Both Blaby and Harborough respondents were 51.2% in favour of Option 1. Hinckley and Bosworth and Oadby and Wigston respondents were evenly split between the options at 50%.

Role

A slightly higher proportion of parents, carers and grandparents had a preference for Option 1 (51.1%) than school staff members (50.8%) as set out below. As these two respondent groups made up 96.1% of respondents, there are insufficient responses from other groups to draw significant conclusions from the data however these are included below for information.

Role	Option 1	Option 2	No preference	Unsure
Parent / carer / grandparent	51.1%	46.7%	1.3%	1.0%
School staff member	50.8%	47.0%	1.1%	1.2%
Member of the public	63.0%	34.8%	1.1%	1.1%
Other (please specify)	47.8%	46.4%	2.9%	2.9%
Pupil / student	70.4%	29.6%	0.0%	0.0%
Early years provider	31.8%	65.9%	2.3%	0.0%
Local authority officer	65.2%	34.8%	0.0%	0.0%
School governor	63.6%	36.4%	0.0%	0.0%

Summary of themes from open comment questions

Below is a summary of themes observed from responses to open comment questions within the survey.

Q1a Which of the two proposed options for school term dates (for community controlled, voluntary controlled and community special schools in Leicestershire) would you prefer? Please briefly explain your answer

5,248 responses

Comments received set out views for and against the respondent's preferred term date option and demonstrate the strength of responses for both options.

Theme	Summary of comments
Retention of Leicestershire fortnight	Comments responded positively to the proposed retention of the 2 week period at the start of the summer break before other neighbouring authorities finish for the summer.
Support for a longer October break due to long autumn term	Many respondents (particularly those favouring Option 2) felt the autumn term is too long and that two weeks in October would improve rest, health and readiness to learn.

Retain longer summer break to maximise time off in better weather and family opportunities	Supporters valued outdoor time, family activities and a fuller break between school years during the better summer weather.
Childcare, annual leave and working-family pressures	Comments described practical pressure in both directions: a long summer is difficult to cover, while an extra October week creates another childcare demand.
Holiday affordability and off-peak travel	Respondents linked the unusual Leicestershire calendar to cheaper travel, while others saw a two-week October window as another affordable opportunity.
Concerns about a two-week October break	Opponents questioned the value of an extra week in poorer weather and highlighted October childcare availability, cost and activity constraints.
Concerns around the timing of the one-week October break	Concerns from some respondents around the timing of the October half term break in Option 1 due to alignment of dates with other surrounding local authorities and the impact on cost of holidays.
Shorter summer may support learning, routines and SEND	Supporters of Proposal 2 argued that a shorter summer could reduce learning loss, ease disrupted routines and help some pupils with SEND.
August return considered too early under Option 2	A substantial concern was returning during August, particularly under Option 2, including staff preparation, attendance and very young summer-born pupils starting school. Respondents also noted that pupils would be starting back before GCSE results were published under Option 2.
Keep the current pattern; no clear need for change	Some respondents saw the established calendar as familiar and effective and did not believe the case for changing it had been made.
Alternative or compromise calendar suggested	A minority of respondents proposed an alternative approach, often a two-week October break facilitated by changing the start, rather than the end, of summer.
Alignment with Leicester City and neighbouring areas	Families and staff spanning authority boundaries stressed the importance of coordination, with the majority seeing the alignment of dates with Leicester City positively. Some respondents views differed and preferred alignment with other neighbouring authorities.

Q2a How important is it to you that school term dates are the same in Leicestershire County and Leicester City? Please briefly explain your answer

2,093 responses

The main case for matching dates is practical: children, siblings and school staff often span City and County boundaries, so alignment simplifies family arrangements and reduces confusion. Childcare, annual leave and shared holiday time reinforce this view. The main counter-view comes from respondents with no City connection or those who value staggered dates for flexibility, quieter venues and cheaper breaks.

Theme	Summary
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Children or siblings attend schools in different areas	Families highlighted siblings or children attending schools in different authorities, making common holiday dates valuable.
Little or no personal impact / no City connection	Many respondents reported no cross-boundary connection and therefore little or no direct impact.
School staff work in a different area from their family	School employees described working in one authority while their children or partners were tied to another calendar.
Consistency makes arrangements simpler and avoids confusion	Respondents said aligned dates simplify planning and reduce confusion, especially around authority boundaries.
Holiday planning, affordability and shared family time	Matching dates were linked to taking leave and spending time together, although some valued the cheaper travel created by different dates.
Childcare, annual leave and working-parent coordination	Different calendars can extend childcare needs and complicate annual leave, particularly for working parents and family carers.
Alignment with neighbouring authorities and border areas	Some comments broadened the issue beyond Leicester City, citing neighbouring authorities and communities near borders.
Wider family, friendships and activities cross boundaries	Shared dates help some respondents coordinate with relatives, friends, clubs and activities across administrative boundaries.
Different dates provide flexibility or quieter/cheaper breaks	A counter-view favoured staggered calendars for flexibility, reduced crowding and access to quieter or cheaper breaks.
Attendance, staffing and school operational impacts	A smaller set of respondents warned that misalignment could affect attendance, staff retention, cover and school operations.