

# Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Tuesday 23 January 2024

## School session dates 2025-2026 and 2026-27

Executive/routine  
Wards  
Council Commitments

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 The Education, Children and Families Committee is asked to:
  - 1.1.1 Agree to the proposed session dates for 2025-26 and 2026-27.

#### **Amanda Hatton**

Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services

Arran Finlay, Senior Education Officer and David Maguire,  
Principal Officer, Engagement and Involvement

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# Report

## School session dates 2025-2026 and 2026-27

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 A short life working group of head teachers, a parent representative and officers produced draft dates for the two years and shared these with staff, parents/carers, and pupils for comment and feedback. As a result some changes were made, and the proposed dates are included as appendices 1 and 2 for approval.

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 In previous years, large scale consultations have taken place with staff, parents/carers, and latterly pupils on the criteria for setting session dates. The feedback helped to form the proposed school calendar year. Following on from concerns that although large numbers of responses were received from staff, parents/carers and pupils, little changed as a result, the approach was changed this year. This time, actual proposed session dates were circulated, following on from discussions with Parent Council Locality groups and feedback was sought on these instead of the criteria.

### 4. Main report

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- 4.1 A short life working group which consisted of head teachers from each sector, centrally based staff, including Human Resources and a parent representative met initially in May 2023 to devise a meaningful approach to consulting with stakeholders about proposed session dates.
- 4.2 The process included research on how other local authorities go about setting session dates. Nine local authorities responded, and it was clear that there are a number of different approaches to setting session dates with the most common method being circulating draft dates to stakeholders, including school staff, parents' groups and pupils. Only one council routinely undertakes large-scale exercises open to all staff, parents/carers and pupils. Some councils only consult widely where there is a proposal to deviate significantly from the current pattern.
- 4.3 Draft dates were produced and circulated initially within the group, central teams and with the Parent Council Locality Groups in September 2023. We had hoped to

include draft dates for 2027-28 as well but were unable to do so as the Council public holiday dates, which need to be factored in, had not been set yet.

- 4.4 Schools were then asked to share the draft dates for 2025-26 and 2026-7 and invite their staff, Parent Council and Pupil Council/Leadership Groups to respond in November and December 2023.
- 4.5 113 responses were received from a range of groups across the school sectors. The feedback was positive for 2025-26, with 71% of respondents agreeing to the dates. This was the case across the sectors. There were some concerns that the Christmas holidays start too early (although some thought they were too late, and others were happy with them) and some concerns about the Edinburgh Spring holiday on Monday 20 April 2026. Some respondents also requested that the September holiday should be moved from Monday 22 to Monday 15 September to give the term a better balance.
- 4.6 The picture was less clear for 2026-27 with only 42% of respondents agreeing with the dates. A number of issues were raised particularly in relation to the Christmas holidays, both the number of days off and when the holiday starts, the long summer holiday before the start of the year, the Edinburgh Spring holiday, and the timing of the Easter holidays.
- 4.7 The calendars for both years have been amended to address these concerns and are included as appendices.

## **5. Next Steps**

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- 5.1 If approved, the revised dates will be added to the term dates pages on the Council website and circulated to head teachers.

## **6. Financial impact**

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- 6.1 There are no financial impacts as the number of days in and out of school is unaffected.

## **7. Equality and Poverty Impact**

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- 7.1 There are no equality or poverty impacts.

## **8. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications**

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- 8.1 There are no climate and nature emergency implications.

## **9. Risk, policy, compliance, governance and community impact**

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- 9.1 The proposed dates have been shared with school staff, parents/carers and pupils. Feedback has been received from a range of staff groups, Parent Councils and Pupil Leadership Groups. Input from stakeholders has led to changes in the proposed dates.

## **10. Background reading/external references**

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- 10.1 School Session Dates 2022-25. Education, Children and Families Committee, 18 May 2021:

<https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/s33932/7.13%20School%20Session%20Dates%202022%20-%202025.pdf>

## **11. Appendices**

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- 11.1 Appendix 1 Draft 2025-26 School Calendar  
11.2 Appendix 2 Draft 2026-27 School Calendar

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## Draft 2025 - 2026 School Calendar

| August 2025 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su          | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | S  |
|             |    |    |    |    | 1  | 2  |
| 3           | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |
| 10          | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17          | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24          | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31          |    |    |    |    |    |    |

| September 2025 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su             | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | S  |
|                | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |
| 7              | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14             | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21             | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28             | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |    |

| October 2025 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su           | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | S  |
|              |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |
| 5            | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12           | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19           | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26           | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |

| November 2025 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su            | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | S  |
|               |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |
| 2             | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 9             | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16            | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23            | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30            |    |    |    |    |    |    |

| December 2025 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su            | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | S  |
|               | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |
| 7             | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14            | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21            | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28            | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |

| January 2026 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su           | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | S  |
|              |    |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  |
| 4            | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| 11           | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18           | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25           | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

| February 2026 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su            | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | S  |
| 1             | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 8             | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15            | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22            | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
|               |    |    |    |    |    |    |

| March 2026 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su         | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | S  |
| 1          | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 8          | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15         | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22         | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29         | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |    |

| April 2026 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su         | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | S  |
|            |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |
| 5          | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12         | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19         | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26         | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    |

| May 2026 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su       | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | S  |
|          |    |    |    |    | 1  | 2  |
| 3        | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |
| 10       | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17       | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24       | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31       |    |    |    |    |    |    |

| June 2026 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su        | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | S  |
|           | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |
| 7         | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14        | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21        | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28        | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |    |

| July 2026 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su        | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | S  |
|           |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |
| 5         | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12        | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19        | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26        | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |



School Closed/Holidays



Teacher In-Service Day (closed for pupils)

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## Draft 2026-2027 School Calendar V3

| August 2026 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su          | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | S  |
|             |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |
| 2           | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 9           | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16          | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23          | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30          | 31 |    |    |    |    |    |

| September 2026 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su             | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | S  |
|                |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  |
| 6              | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13             | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20             | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27             | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |

| October 2026 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su           | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | S  |
|              |    |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  |
| 4            | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| 11           | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18           | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25           | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

| November 2026 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su            | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | S  |
| 1             | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 8             | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15            | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22            | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29            | 30 |    |    |    |    |    |

| December 2026 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su            | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | S  |
|               |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  |
| 6             | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13            | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20            | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27            | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |

| January 2027 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su           | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | S  |
|              |    |    |    |    | 1  | 2  |
| 3            | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |
| 10           | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17           | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24           | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31           |    |    |    |    |    |    |

| February 2027 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su            | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | S  |
|               | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |
| 7             | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14            | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21            | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28            |    |    |    |    |    |    |

| March 2027 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su         | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | S  |
|            | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |
| 7          | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14         | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21         | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28         | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |

| April 2027 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su         | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | S  |
|            |    |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  |
| 4          | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| 11         | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18         | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25         | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |

| May 2027 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su       | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | S  |
|          |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |
| 2        | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 9        | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16       | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23       | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30       | 31 |    |    |    |    |    |

| June 2027 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su        | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | S  |
|           |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  |
| 6         | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13        | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20        | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27        | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |

| July 2027 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su        | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | S  |
|           |    |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  |
| 4         | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| 11        | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18        | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25        | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |



School Closed/Holidays



Teacher In-Service Day (closed for pupils)