

# School term dates

2017/18



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

[www.gov.wales](http://www.gov.wales)



A consultation for young people

# Introduction

Sometimes families find it difficult when school term dates and holidays are at different times.

Term dates can be different for schools in different parts of Wales and sometimes even for schools in the same local area.

So, in 2014 the Welsh Government changed the law to help families.

Now the people who set term dates for schools have to work together to agree the same term dates and holidays. If they don't agree, Welsh Ministers have the power to step in and set term dates for everyone.

We have now collected all the information that we have been given about dates for the 2017/18 school year and found there are still lots of differences.

This document tells you about the dates that we want to set for all schools for 2017/18.

Before we make these dates final, we want to know what you think.



## Meet the Jones family!

Mr and Mrs Jones have three children. Joanne is 13, Iwan is eight and Megan is four.

Joanne goes to the local Catholic high school. Her holidays are different to Euan's and Megan's.

If Mr Jones teaches English at a high school in a different area, his holidays could be different too.

This can make childcare or planning a holiday very difficult.



## How were the dates different?

All local authorities across Wales did manage to work together and set term dates.

We found that most schools run by local authorities in north Wales had the same dates as each other.

South Wales had dates that were the same as each other.

However, there were some differences between the north Wales and south Wales dates.

Some schools run by local authorities in mid and west Wales were the same as those in north Wales and some were the same as south Wales.

There are 168 schools that don't have their term dates set by local authorities.

These are run by the Roman Catholic Church, the Church in Wales or communities. 107 of these schools sent us their term dates.

All these schools had the same dates as the local authority schools.

All the schools run by local authorities across Wales chose to have the same Autumn half term in 2017 starting on 30 October as well as the Christmas holiday starting on 25 December and the summer 2018 half term starting on 28 May.

The term dates for some school holidays are different, these are the first day of the school year in 2017 is 1 September for some and 4 September for others. The spring half term in 2018 starts on 12 February for some and 19 February for others.

Some have the Easter holiday in 2018 starting on 26 March and some have it starting on 30 March.



## The dates we want to set

These are the dates we are planning to set for all schools in Wales for the 2017/18 school year.

### First day of school year

Monday 4 September 2017

### Autumn half term

Monday 30 October – Friday 3 November

### Christmas holiday

Monday 25 December – Friday 5 January

### Spring half term

Monday 19 February – Friday 23 February

### Easter holiday

Friday 30 March – Friday 13 April  
(i.e. final day in school Thursday 29th March)

### Summer half term

Monday 28 May – Friday 1 June

### Final day in school

Tuesday 24 July 2018

## Thank you for reading this

Please answer the questions and send your answers to:

SMED2@wales.gsi.gov.uk

or

School Governance and Organisation Branch  
School Standards and Workforce Directorate  
Welsh Government  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

by 1 February 2016.



# Questions

Your name? (optional)

Your age? (optional)

What part of Wales do you live in? (optional)

Do you think that these dates are a good idea?

Yes

No

Don't know

Comment

We want to make sure we think about how setting these dates could affect people with disabilities, people from different faiths, or people with other equality issues.

Do you think there's anything we've missed out?

Comment

