

Number: **WG52477**

Welsh Government

School term dates for 2026 to 2027 – Consultation responses

Term dates proposals for all maintained schools in Wales for school year 2026 to 2027

25 June 2025

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.

Overview

Local authorities have notified Welsh Ministers of their proposed 2026-27 school term dates for all maintained schools within their respective areas. This is a requirement of the Education (Notification of School Term Dates) (Wales) Regulations 2014 and includes term dates set by voluntary aided and foundation schools as well the dates set by local authorities for all other maintained schools in their areas.

The Welsh Ministers considered that the term dates were not the same or as similar as can be. As a result, Welsh Ministers considered using their powers under the Education Act 2002 ("the 2002 Act") to harmonise term dates for the school year 2026-27. Under the 2002 Act and the Education (Consultation on School Term Dates) (Wales) Regulations 2014 the Welsh Ministers are required to consult on such proposals.

This consultation sought views on the proposed dates for 2026-27 and the related draft direction set out below.

Action required

This document is for information only.

To note the summary of responses for the school term dates 2026 to 2027 consultation.

Further information and related documents

Large print, Braille and alternative language versions of this document are available on request.

The consultation summary of response documents can be accessed from the Welsh Government's website at:

www.gov.wales/consultations

[The Education \(Wales\) Act 2002](#)

[The Education \(Notification of School Term Dates\)\(Wales\) Regulations 2014](#)

[The Education \(Consultation on School Term Dates\)\(Wales\) Regulations 2014](#)

The consultation response document can be accessed from the Welsh Government's website at gov.wales/consultations

Contact details

For more information:

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Additional copies

This summary of response and copies of all the consultation documentation are published in electronic form only and can be accessed on the Welsh Government's website.

Link to the consultation documentation: [hyperlink](#)

Introduction

In 2014, the Welsh Government made legislation with the aim of ensuring school term and holiday dates across Wales are the same or as similar as can be.

This consultation requested views on the proposed term dates for all maintained schools in Wales for the school year 2026-27, and the related draft direction.

The legislation

Local authorities and the governing bodies of maintained schools (“relevant governing bodies”) have the duty to set term dates for their schools. They are also under a duty to work together when setting term dates so that those dates are the same or as similar as possible. If, despite best efforts, term dates are not agreed then section 32B of the Education Act 2002 (“the 2002 Act”) gives Welsh Ministers the power to direct local authorities and relevant governing bodies on what their term dates must be, so that term date harmonisation across Wales is achieved. The power in that section is not limited to solely achieving dates that are the same or as similar as can be but is wide enough to permit that use of it.

The Education (Notification of School Term Dates) (Wales) Regulations 2014 provide that local authorities must inform Welsh Ministers of the term dates set for all maintained schools within their areas by the final working day in August two years prior to the school year to which they relate.

The Welsh Ministers considered that the term dates submitted by local authorities for 2026-27 were not the same or as similar as can be. Therefore, the Welsh Ministers considered using their powers of direction under the 2002 Act to ensure that term dates are as similar as can be across Wales.

However, before they may use their power of direction the 2002 Act places the Welsh Ministers under a duty to carry out an appropriate consultation as set out in the Education (Consultation on School Term Dates) (Wales) Regulations 2014.

The consultation

This consultation requested views on the following proposed term dates for all maintained schools in Wales for the school year 2026-27:

Start of autumn term and first day of the school year	Tuesday 1 September 2026
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Autumn half term	Monday 26 October 2026 to Friday 30 October 2026
End of autumn term	Friday 18 December 2026 for all schools except for those in Powys Powys County Council schools alone will end the autumn term on Tuesday 22 December 2026
Start of spring term	Monday 4 January 2027
Spring half term	Monday 8 February 2027 to Friday 12 February 2027
End of spring term	Friday 19 March 2027
Start of summer term	Monday 5 April 2027
Summer half term	Monday 31 May 2027 to Friday 4 June 2027
End of summer term and last day of the school year	Tuesday 20 July 2027 for all schools except for those in Powys Powys County Council schools alone will end the summer term on Friday 16 July 2027.

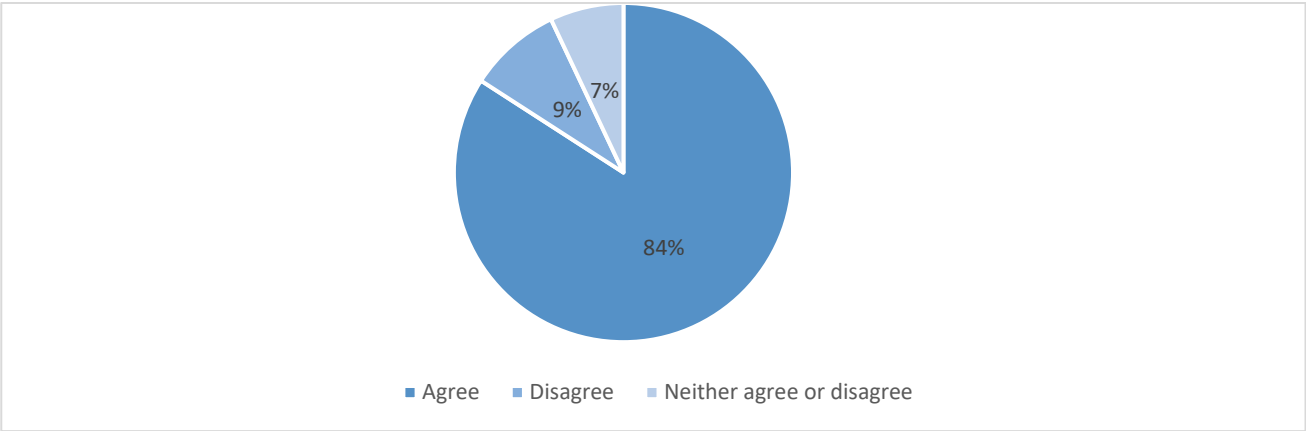
Summary of consultation responses

The consultation was open for 12 weeks (3 March to 25 May 2025) and received 440 responses, of which 385 fully answered questions 1 and 2.

Most of the questions asked for an ‘agree’, ‘disagree’, or ‘neither agree nor disagree’ response, along with any supporting comments. Not all respondents answered every question, particularly questions 3 to 7. However, all responses that answered at least one question or provided comments on the proposals were considered.

Percentages shown in each of the tables below are based on the number who responded to that question. This summary is not an exhaustive record of all the comments made, and the absence of a particular issue does not indicate that it has been ignored or is less important.

Question 1: Do you agree that term dates which are as similar as possible across Wales will help parents, carers, families, and businesses to plan?



A significant proportion of respondents (84%) expressed support for school term dates that are similar as possible across Wales. This strong consensus highlights the importance of consistency across local authorities to better support parents, carers, families, and businesses in planning ahead.

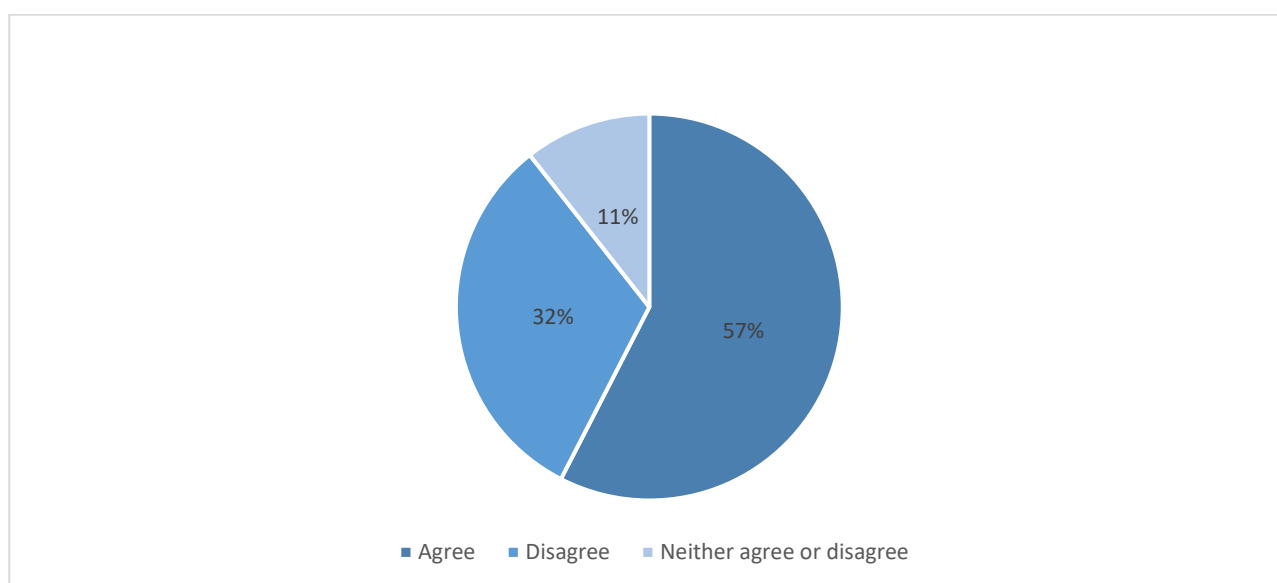
The feedback highlights a clear preference for a more coordinated approach to school term dates with many suggesting that harmonisation would reduce confusion, improve planning for many schools, sectors and families.

Those respondents who disagreed or were neutral did not necessarily feel that dissimilar dates across Wales was not a problem or had much of an impact. There was a strong sense from some respondents that they felt a difference in term dates actually supported families in taking advantage of cheaper holidays without inflation, less congestion in tourist areas, and providing more flexibility.

Welsh Government response

While the majority of respondents supported the alignment of school term dates, we fully acknowledge and value the feedback from those who did not. The policy underpinning sections 32A and 32B of the Education Act 2002 aims to eliminate discrepancies in term dates that may create difficulties for parents and staff. We believe that harmonised term dates not only support families and educators but also provide benefits to the tourism sector. On balance, we consider these policy objectives to outweigh the arguments for differing spring breaks put forward by some local authorities.

Question 2: Do you agree with the proposals for terms dates for the school year 2026 – 2027 and the proposed draft direction?



For question 2, 57% of respondents agreed with the proposed term dates for the 2026–2027 school year and the accompanying draft direction.

Supportive feedback highlighted the practicality of the proposal, particularly in aiding teachers and pupils who attend or work in schools across different local authorities. Respondents appreciated the consistency it offers and the avoidance of split weeks, which could otherwise affect learner attendance. The alignment with Powys was also seen as positive, as it supports cultural engagement without disrupting education. Overall, there was a strong preference for a consistent, Wales-wide approach to school term dates, with many calling for fixed dates to be considered in the future.

Of the 32% who disagreed with the proposal and draft direction, the primary concern was the imbalance in term lengths; some terms were perceived as either too short or too long, with the dates proposed by other local authorities offering a more evenly distributed calendar.

Many respondents expressed disappointment that teachers and school staff might miss out on bank holidays and noted that alignment with English school holidays had not been adequately considered, particularly for those living in Wales but working or studying across the border. Additionally, some felt it was unfair to grant an exception to Powys for the Royal Welsh Show, viewing it as preferential treatment.

Welsh Government response

We fully acknowledge that there are both advantages and disadvantages to aligning school term dates, and each point raised has been evaluated.

It is important to emphasise that Powys is not receiving preferential treatment, but rather consideration due to the unique local challenges posed by the Royal Welsh Show. For instance, school transport is repurposed during this time, and heavy traffic congestion makes travel to and from school particularly difficult. However, the exception also serves a broader purpose: to promote cultural participation and enable families and staff in both nearby and neighbouring local authorities to attend the event.

Questions 3 to 7 received limited responses and were skipped by most participants. While the feedback provided was reviewed and considered, it did not influence the core messages or outcomes of the consultation.

Conclusion

We are grateful to the many individuals and organisations who took the time to respond to this consultation.

Most respondents agree with and support the proposed school term dates for 2026 to 2027, as well as the draft direction. Consequently, the Cabinet Secretary for Education has agreed to proceed with the proposed dates, as outlined in the table above, and to issue the direction to local authorities to finalise the dates and make the necessary arrangements with their schools.

Annex

List of respondents

Below is the list of respondents who provided their contact information and excludes anyone who anonymously completed the consultation document.

Luisa Munro-Morris
Kim Scriven
Mollie
Reg White
Keith Billington
Mark
Anna Britten
Steve
Jolene Grainger
Sarah Jenkins
Christopher Powell
Hayley Clark
Jessica Gardiner
Beth Jones
Kevin Stroud
Louise Brown
Sian Thomas
Sarah
Kate L Card
Julie Lewis
Alyson Dabernig
Anna Kepinska
K Jones
Debbie Carson
Graeme Clarke
Gareth Rhodri Jones
John Weir
Alex Barons
Rhian Owen
Colette Baines
Rachael Hughes
Rebecca Fox
Bronwen Prytherch

KE
R Davies
Gareth Tidmarsh
Mr Chesworth
Emma Lewis
Adele Pugh
Neil Pryce
Mark
Karl Roberts
Alisha Newman
Sue
anna smith
Rhian Miller
Delyth Hartshorne
Alison Blasdale
Helen Ashby-Ridgway
Llinos Jones
Dr Llinos Jones
Jan
Scott Hann
Sian Evans
Joanne Brace
Jemma
K garratt-smith
Liane Forster
L John
Karla Bagnall
Gareth Evans
Fr Robert James
Arwel Wood
Lucy Warr
Amy Waldron
Sarah Hearne
Naomi Poole
Rochelle Parker
Miss Petra Davies
Michelle Barry
Simon Roberts
Emma Coates
Richard Martin
Sam Roberts
Leanne Parsons
Catryn Hampton
Chris Newcombe
Danielle Evans
Michelle Harvey
Nicki Pickens
Ian Evans

Sarah Barker
Mitchell
Rachel English
Jason Reynolds
Richard Walters
Julie Lloyd
Kellie Bellmaine
Kathryn Dean
Ceryn
Rebecca Donkin
Kirsty Ellis-Johnson
A Santiago
Natalie Sophie Shaw
Sian Theobald
Rhianydd
Catryn Lawrence-Morgan
Sian Hoskins
Lindsey Hastings
Heather Meiring
Carolyn
Tracey Lewis
Nicole Simons
Tracy Sweetland-Hodges
Bev Cheetham
Manon Williams
Ursula Brookes
Helen Margaret Borley
Sian Lewis-Sullivan
Katie Eadie
Clare Ball
Caryl Jones
Jenny Drogan
Lauren Pell
Claire Scott
E. Williams
Rosie Foley
Sara Hannon
CT
Julie Fairhurst
Amy Livesey
Suzanne Williams
Melany McKenna
Lauren
Bernadette Gray
Lisa Armstrong
Fiona Thomas
Harriet Hanmer
Jayne Doyle

Sophie Williams
Sian
J RICHARDSON
Marc Bowen
Matt Williams
Rick Littlejohn
Angharad Prys Evans
Katy Gullam
Jamie Rees
Rebecca Richards
Iwan Thomas
Fran Jordan
Sarah-Jayne Bartley
Catrin Williams
Sarah
Mark
Ms R S Williams
Elise Brydon
Nick
Geraint Phillips
david dunbar
Tim Marshall
Adam Faries
Daniel Clegg
Kelly
Lynette Breeze
Charlotte
Lesley Jones
Steven Aicheler
Alexander Phillips
katy Jenkins
Matthew McGregor
Sharon Parr
R Lambert
Kate Parsons
Natasha shahriveri
Kathryn
Alec Mills
Jo Carey
Gabi
Clare Nichols
Pania wilks
Amanda Evans
Jonathan Griffith
Gemma Machin
H
Aaron Williams-Cross
Emily Finley

Laura Lacey
David Finley
Laura Lacey
Sally Flynn
Bec Williams
Siân Neilson
Rhian Were
Katie Smith
Rhiannon Miles
Debbie Ellis
Sarah Leigh
Emily le grice
Claire Williams
James Ban
Brendan Devine
Hannah
Rebecca Moore
LB
Jane Crank
Emily Griffith
Hefin Hammett
Ruth
Mr Rhodri James Evans
Emrys Roberts
Melanie Anderson
Karen Evans
Owain Harpwood
Naomi Ewins
Kathryn May
Elliw Williams
Tina
Emily Backhouse
Paula Colebrook
Adam stamenkovic
Kimberley Bourne- Rowlands
Michelle Jones
Karen
Adrian
Sara Thomas
Judith Burnett
Meruig Jones
Scott Hann
Emily Currie
Emma Pearson
Luke Pearson
Kelly frazier
Amy Evans-James

Emily
C Bennett
Lloyd
MRS SARAH L JOHNSON
Jodie jones
Christopher Evans
Nerys Usher
Angela Prickett
Williams
Gillian Connolly
Mark
Janet Hayward
Dilys Jouvenat
Claire Wilkinson
Chris
Em
Sian Meredudd
Chris North
Cath
Angharad Davies
Buddug Lewis
Carys A Thomas
Rhys Davies
Tanya Tranter
John Thomson
Sarah Owen
Anna-Marie Cox
Natalie Martin
Mrs S James
L Brown
Jack Kelly
Rebecca Holland
K Mclver
Kathryn Ann Chedgzoy
Louise Howells
Edwin E Hughes
Hanna williams
G Brown
Angela Hughes
Helen Lewis – Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Claire
Kathryn Warwood – Torfaen County Borough Council
Deborah Weston – Newport City Council

Jenny Jones
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Hannah
Emily Nicholson
Iona Davies - UCAC
Gemma Haines - FUW
Jane Robinson
Annette
Em Jones
M H
Carla Hughes – Wrexham County Borough Council
Josh
David Roe
Mark Booth
Gregg Davies
Grant McKenzie
Felicity Westlake
Martin Hodge
Helen Smith
Diane Phillips
Gareth Parry
Gareth Williams
Bryony Bromley
Owen Evans
Gwion Dafydd
Owen Evans - Estyn
Jennifer
Neil Butler - NASUWT
Richard Williams
Matthew Jones – Monmouthshire County Council