

**TITLE OF REPORT:**           **Proposals for School Term Dates 2025/26**

**REPORT OF:**               **Helen Fergusson - Strategic Director, Children's Social Care and Lifelong Learning**

---

### **Purpose of the Report**

1.     The Report asks Cabinet to approve the School Term Dates for 2025/26

### **Background**

2.     In order to allow schools, parents and other stakeholders to plan into the future, it is necessary to agree school term dates a significant period in advance.

### **Proposal**

3.     It is proposed that the calendar for 2025/26, attached as Appendix 2 to this report, be approved.

### **Recommendations**

4.     It is recommended that

Cabinet agrees the dates set out in the School Term Dates for 2025/26 attached, for the following reason(s)

- (i) To allow future planning to take place.
- (ii) Make effective and efficient use of LA resources.

## APPENDIX 1

### Policy Context

1. This proposal supports the Council's new strategic approach of Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives, will support delivery of our Gateshead Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

### Background

2. The Education (School Day and School Year) (England) Regulations 1999 (SI 1999 No. 3181) require schools to have at least 380 half-day sessions (190 contact days with pupils) and (195 days for staff) in each school year. This is consistent with the 195 days a year required by a teacher's statutory conditions of service: the additional five days are for continual professional development. The term dates for Community Voluntary controlled and Special Schools are determined by the LA whilst voluntary-aided schools and Academies are decided by the governing body of each school. This means that Governing Bodies of Voluntary Aided schools and Academies can depart from the LA term dates if they wish. Many Voluntary Aided schools can and do depart from those dates determined by the LA and there is no requirement to consult the LA however such schools are required to act reasonably when setting their dates.

It is possible that some academies may develop and determine different term date calendars. Whenever possible any such changes will be published by the LA.

3. The Local Government Association (LGA) Standing Committee on the School Year have previously circulated proposed School Term Calendar with a view to encouraging local authorities towards a degree of standardisation of dates. This is based on the following principles:
  - Start the school year on a September date as near as possible to 1 September.
  - Equalise teaching and learning blocks (roughly 2x7 and 4x6 weeks).
  - Establish a two-week spring break in early April irrespective of the incidence of the Easter Bank Holiday. (Where the break does not coincide with the Bank Holiday the date should be, as far as practicable, nationally agreed and as consistent as possible across all local authorities.)
  - Allow for the possibility of a summer holiday of at least six weeks for those schools which want this length of break.
  - Identify and agree annually designated periods of holiday, including the summer holiday, where Head Teachers are recommended not to arrange teaching days.
5. The proposed term dates in appendix 2 are the same as neighbouring Local Authorities to ensure a degree of consistency across the region.
6. The proposal starts the term on the 1st September 2025 which avoids broken school weeks and is in line with the term dates for all other Local Authorities. This also fixes the spring bank holiday in line with the Local Government Association strategy establishing a two-week spring break in early April which also covers two bank holidays. It allows 2 CPD days in term time requiring the 3 remaining training days to be completed as twilight sessions. It is important to achieve, as near as possible, a match with neighbouring LAs. Parents resident in Gateshead and who work in other LAs or have children in other LA

schools and vice versa can make better arrangements for their childcare and give regard to a wide range of personal and domestic requirements. Conflicting dates also work against the effective and efficient use of resources between LAs when collaborating on joint events or on the delivery of truancy sweeps.

### **Consultation**

7. The proposed dates have been shared with other local authorities in the region, Gateshead Head Teachers, Gateshead Schools JCC membership, , the Diocesan Bodies and the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

It is recommended that Appendix 2 be adopted as the term dates for the 2025/26 academic year.

### **Implications of Recommended Option**

#### **9 Resources**

- a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Finance and ICT confirms that there are no financial implications as a result of this report.
- b) **Human Resources Implications** - advance notice of school term dates enables all stakeholders to consider a broad range of domestic and personal arrangements by allowing schools to plan their academic year.
- c) **Property Implications** - None

10. **Risk Management Implication** - None.

#### **11. Equality and Diversity Implications –**

Every effort is made in setting dates to take account of holiday requirements created and a result of faith.

#### **12. Crime and Disorder Implications -**

Evidence does show the potential for an increase in youth crime and disorder and antisocial behaviour during periods when young people are not in school. The Council seeks to address this 'risk' by collaborating with partners to offer activity programmes during common holiday periods.

13. Health Implications - None

14. Sustainability Implications – None.

15. Human Rights Implications – None.

16. Area and Ward Implications - All.

17. **Background Information-**

The Education (School Day and School Year) (England) regulations 1999(SI 1999 No 3181)

# Gateshead draft Term and Holiday Dates


## Academic Year 2025/26


### 193 TERM DAY ENVELOPE

| AUGUST 2025 |    |    |    |    | SEPTEMBER 2025 |    |    |    |    | OCTOBER 2025 |    |    |    | NOVEMBER 2025 |    |    |    | DECEMBER 2025 |    |    |    | JANUARY 2026 |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----------------|----|----|----|----|--------------|----|----|----|---------------|----|----|----|---------------|----|----|----|--------------|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|
| 4           | 11 | 18 | 25 |    | 1              | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29 | 6            | 13 | 20 | 27 | 3             | 10 | 17 | 24 | 1             | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29           |    | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |    |    |
| 5           | 12 | 19 | 26 |    | 2              | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 | 7            | 14 | 21 | 28 | 4             | 11 | 18 | 25 | 2             | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30           |    | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |    |    |
| 6           | 13 | 20 | 27 |    | 3              | 10 | 17 | 24 |    | 1            | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29            | 5  | 12 | 19 | 26            | 3  | 10 | 17 | 24           | 31 |   | 7  | 14 | 21 | 28 |    |
| 7           | 14 | 21 | 28 |    | 4              | 11 | 18 | 25 |    | 2            | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30            | 6  | 13 | 20 | 27            | 4  | 11 | 18 | 25           | 31 | 1 | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29 |    |
| 1           | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29 | 5              | 12 | 19 | 26 |    | 3            | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31            | 7  | 14 | 21 | 28            | 5  | 12 | 19 | 26           | 31 | 2 | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 |    |
| 2           | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 | 6              | 13 | 20 | 27 |    | 4            | 11 | 18 | 25 |               | 1  | 8  | 15 | 22            | 29 | 6  | 13 | 20           | 27 |   | 3  | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |
| 3           | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 | 7              | 14 | 21 | 28 |    | 5            | 12 | 19 | 26 |               | 2  | 9  | 16 | 23            | 30 | 7  | 14 | 21           | 28 |   | 4  | 11 | 18 | 25 |    |

| FEBRUARY 2026 |    |    |    | MARCH 2026 |    |    |    |    | APRIL 2026 |    |    |    | MAY 2026 |    |    |    | JUNE 2026 |    |    |    | JULY 2026 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------------|----|----|----|------------|----|----|----|----|------------|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|-----------|----|----|----|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 2             | 9  | 16 | 23 | 2          | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 | 6          | 13 | 20 | 27 | 4        | 11 | 18 | 25 | 1         | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29        | 6  | 13 | 20 | 27 | 6  | 13 | 20 | 27 |    |    |    |    |
| 3             | 10 | 17 | 24 | 3          | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 | 7          | 14 | 21 | 28 | 5        | 12 | 19 | 26 | 2         | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30        | 2  | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 | 7  | 14 | 21 | 28 |    |    |    |
| 4             | 11 | 18 | 25 | 4          | 11 | 18 | 25 |    | 1          | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29       | 6  | 13 | 20 | 27        | 3  | 10 | 17 | 24        |    | 1  | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29 | 1  | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29 |    |
| 5             | 12 | 19 | 26 | 5          | 12 | 19 | 26 |    | 2          | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30       | 7  | 14 | 21 | 28        | 4  | 11 | 18 | 25        |    | 2  | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 | 2  | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 |    |
| 6             | 13 | 20 | 27 | 6          | 13 | 20 | 27 |    | 3          | 10 | 17 | 24 |          | 1  | 8  | 15 | 22        | 29 | 5  | 12 | 19        | 26 |    | 3  | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 | 3  | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |
| 7             | 14 | 21 | 28 | 7          | 14 | 21 | 28 |    | 4          | 11 | 18 | 25 |          | 2  | 9  | 16 | 23        | 30 | 6  | 13 | 20        | 27 |    | 4  | 11 | 18 | 25 |    | 4  | 11 | 18 | 25 |    |
| 1             | 8  | 15 | 22 | 1          | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29 | 5          | 12 | 19 | 26 |          | 3  | 10 | 17 | 24        | 31 | 7  | 14 | 21        | 28 |    | 5  | 12 | 19 | 26 |    | 5  | 12 | 19 | 26 |    |

| AUGUST 2026 |    |    |    |    | SEPTEMBER 2026 |    |    |    |    |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----------------|----|----|----|----|
| 3           | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 | 7              | 14 | 21 | 28 |    |
| 4           | 11 | 18 | 25 |    | 1              | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| 5           | 12 | 19 | 26 |    | 2              | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| 6           | 13 | 20 | 27 |    | 3              | 10 | 17 | 24 |    |
| 7           | 14 | 21 | 28 |    | 4              | 11 | 18 | 25 |    |
| 1           | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29 | 5              | 12 | 19 | 26 |    |
| 2           | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 | 6              | 13 | 20 | 27 |    |

 School Holidays

 Bank Holidays

The number of term days shown is 193. Schools need to keep 1 day back from the 193 above until late in the summer term for possible election purposes (only if the school is used as a polling station and would need to close to pupils and staff leaving) 192 days in term. Schools will therefore need to identify 2 PD days from the term dates above and need to

determine a further 3 PD days from twilight sessions or designated holidays. (Pupils must be taught for 190 days (380 sessions))