



# Report on the consultation for school term and holiday dates for the academic year 2026 – 2027

## Introduction

Local Authorities have a duty to set the school term dates for local authority maintained schools, such as community and voluntary controlled schools. Foundation, Trust, Voluntary Aided Schools and Academies are responsible for setting their own term dates. In practice, most of the schools in Norfolk use the same term dates.

Schools must be open to pupils for 190 days in an academic year and 195 days for teachers. Home to school transport will be provided on the days the school is open to pupils.

Norfolk County Council works with other local authorities nearby to set proposed dates for an academic year – this is known as the Eastern Region Model Calendar. This collaborative model has been in place for several years. We do this because we feel it is better to have a co-ordinated approach to setting school term dates to minimise the impact on families and school transport providers.

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### 1. Consultation

Norfolk County Council undertook a consultation, using a survey on Citizenspace. It was published on the Council's website and sent to over 400 schools, via e-courier on 4 November 2024 and the consultation closed on 13 December 2024.

We consulted on the proposed Eastern Region Model term and holiday dates for 2026 - 2027, as set out in **Appendix A**.

The proposed model includes 190 teaching days, when schools must be open to pupils and which home to school transport will be provided. The pattern of dates included five suggested in-service training dates for the academic year.

## 2. Analysis of consultation responses

The detailed consultation analysis can be found in Appendix B including comments from respondents. Percentage rates have been rounded to the nearest whole number

### Respondents

23 responses were received.

The majority of responses were from staff (91%), with a few from parents/guardians (17%), and governors (17%).

### Proposed school term dates for 2026/2027

Of the 23 respondents who took part in the consultation, 7 respondents (30%) strongly agreed and 10 respondents (44%) agreed with the proposed school term dates.

19 respondents provided details of the schools they were responding from; 2 Secondary School, 13 Primary Schools and 4 special schools.

The comments made in support (strongly agree/ agree) of this proposal were;

- "Generally well thought out."
- "The additional Friday on October half term really helps."
- "The slightly longer half term break helps staff and families to have a cheaper holiday."
- "It looks in line with previous years and should work fine."
- "Well positioned dates. No obvious issues/problems with the proposal."
- "The autumn term is too long, but I appreciate that Easter and Christmas dates are out of your control."
- "The additional day by the October half term is particularly useful."
- "Holiday dates are arranged so that meaningful INSET can take place."

2 respondents (9%) neither agreed or disagreed.

3 respondent (13%) disagreed and 1 respondent (4%) strongly disagreed with the proposed school term dates. The comments made by those who did not support the proposal were;

- "Finishing midweek on Wednesday 21st July causes problems with regards to attendance."
- "It feels very early to be coming back to school on 1st September."
- "I would personally like to have a 2-week break at October half term and have 1 less week during the summer."
- "The first week back in September is a very short one for the children, so not ideal."
- "Think Easter is too long - put it onto October or May half term."
- "Most of my staff would prefer one less week in the summer and increase other holidays across the year."

### Proposed staff training dates for 2026/2027

There were 23 responses to this question

65% agreed or strongly agreed with the proposed staff training dates.

9% neither agreed or disagreed.

26% disagreed or strongly disagreed with the proposed staff training dates.

### **Response to the views raised**

As with previous years there have been challenging decisions regarding some dates to ensure that 190 teaching days are available, around the public holidays and evenly spread across the year. This year this has meant it has been unavoidable to propose part- week and still align closely with our neighbouring authorities.

The response rate to the consultation was low at 23 respondents. However, 74% of those who took part in the consultation, were in favour of the proposed term dates for 2026 – 2027.

The comments about the proposed school term dates said that they are generally well thought out, with the additional Friday on October half term and the slightly longer half term break being particularly helpful for families. Respondents said that the dates align well with previous years and are well positioned, with no major issues. While the autumn term is considered too long, the constraints around Easter and Christmas are understood by those in agreement. The additional day in October half term is seen as useful, and the arrangement of holiday dates allows for meaningful staff training days.

Those not in agreement with the proposed school term dates have raised several concerns, including issues with attendance due to finishing midweek on 21 July and the early return to school on 1 September. Some suggest a 2-week break in October and a shorter summer holiday, while others find the first week back in September too short for children. Additionally, there are suggestions to shorten the Easter break and redistribute holidays throughout the year, with many staff preferring fewer weeks in the summer and more breaks at other times.

### **3. Recommendation**

The proposed Eastern Regional Model calendar for 2026/2027 is recommended for approval as;

- The majority of respondents agreed with the proposed term dates and suggested staff training days
- There is alignment with neighbouring council areas.

Please note, the local authority has a responsibility to publish the school term dates 18 months before the start date of the 2026/2027 school calendar.

Appendix A- Proposed Term Date Calendar 2026- 2027



# Norfolk County Council 2026-2027

## Norfolk Model Calendar Consultation version

This calendar applies to community schools, community special schools, VC schools and nursery schools and sets the days on which school transport will be provided. While most Foundation, VA, foundation special, free schools and academy trusts who are able to set their own dates, adopt the Norfolk Model, we advise you to check with your child's school before making holiday or other commitments.

September 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	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						
M	T	W	T	F	S	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						
M	T	W	T	F	S	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						
M	T	W	T	F	S	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						
M	T	W	T	F	S	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						
M	T	W	T	F	S	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						
M	T	W	T	F	S	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						
M	T	W	T	F	S	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	

May 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	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						
M	T	W	T	F	S	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						
M	T	W	T	F	S	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	

August 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	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					

Key : White dates - schools open to pupils  
 Yellow dates - pupil holiday  
 Red dates - bank holiday

Five staff training days will be selected from yellow dates, we suggest 1 & 2 September, 23 October, 4th January and 12th April . Some may choose to use twilight hours for staff training instead of some or all of these.

## Appendix B – Responses received via Citizen Space

### School term dates for the school year 2026-2027

<https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/term-dates2026-27>

This report was created on Wednesday 18 December 2024 at 09:19

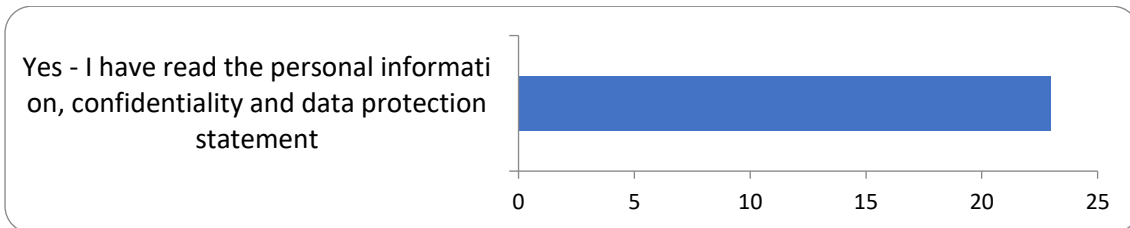
The activity ran from 04/11/2024 to 13/12/2024

Responses to this survey: **23**

**1: Please tick to confirm that you have read the Personal information, confidentiality and data protection statement above.**

#### Data protection agreement

There were 23 responses to this part of the question.

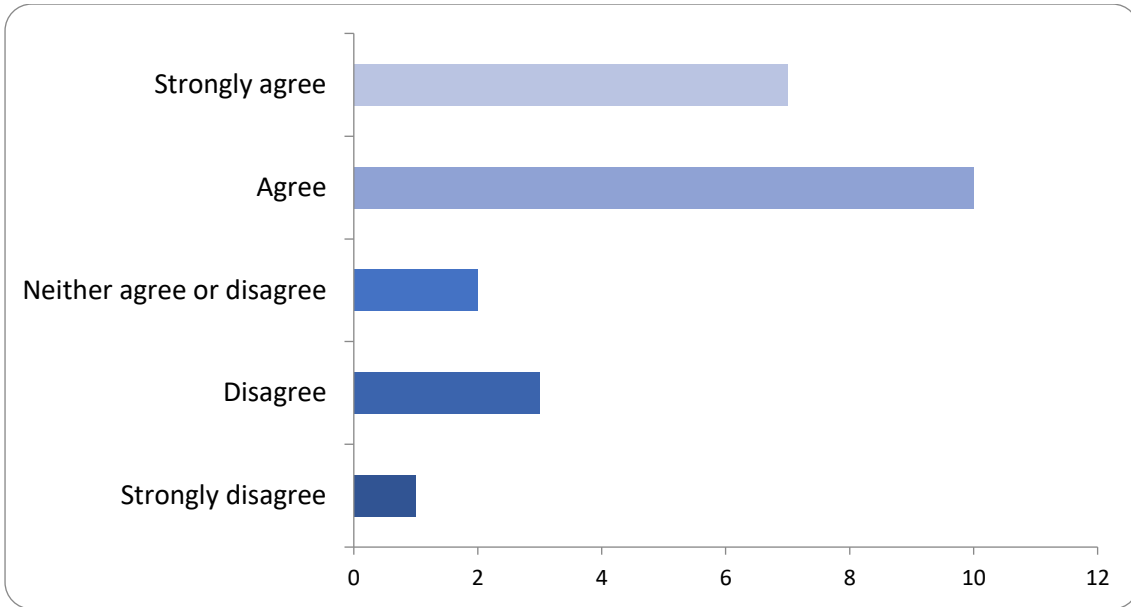


Option	Total	Percent
Yes - I have read the personal information, confidentiality and data protection statement	23	100.00%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

**2: How far do you agree or disagree with the school term dates for pupils proposed for the academic year 2026/2027?**

#### Term dates

There were 23 responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	7	30.43%
Agree	10	43.48%
Neither agree or disagree	2	8.70%
Disagree	3	13.04%
Strongly disagree	1	4.35%
Don't know	0	0.00%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

**3: Why do you say this? Please write in below:**

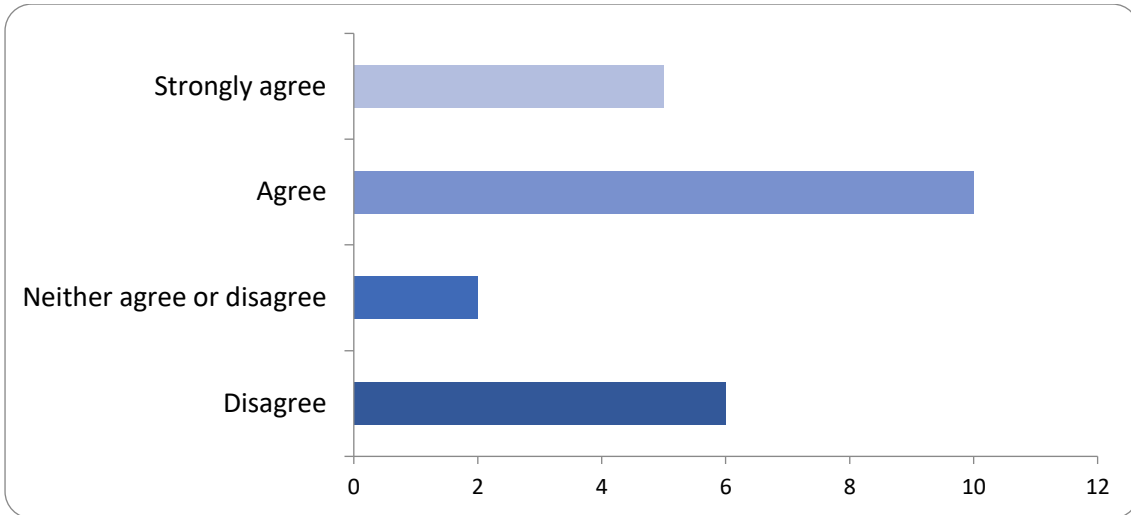
**tell us why**

There were 19 responses to this part of the question.

**4: How far do you agree or disagree with the staff training dates proposed for 2026/2027?**

**staff dates**

There were 23 responses to this part of the question.

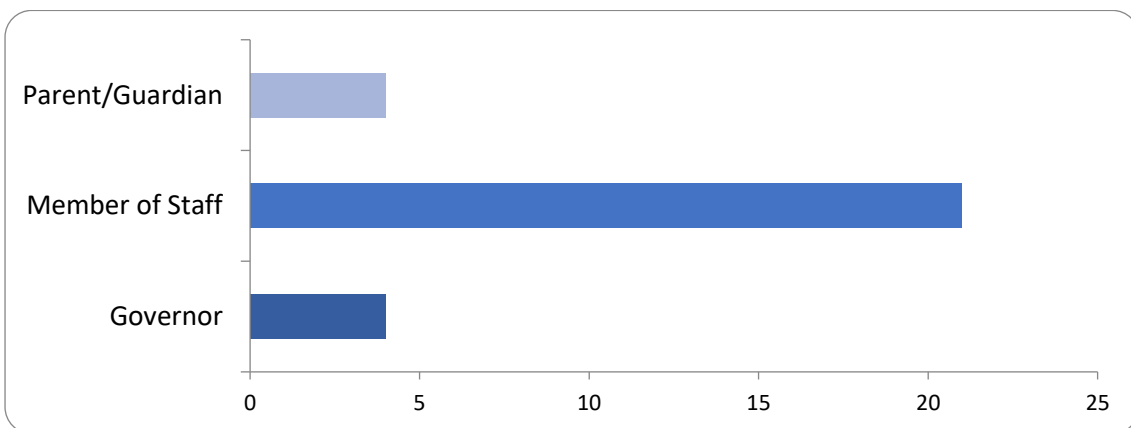


Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	5	21.74%
Agree	10	43.48%
Neither agree or disagree	2	8.70%
Disagree	6	26.09%
Strongly disagree	0	0.00%
Don't know	0	0.00%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

5: Please tell us who you are, (tick all that apply):

### who are you

There were 23 responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
Pupil	0	0.00%
Parent/Guardian	4	17.39%
Member of the Parent Teacher Association	0	0.00%
Member of Staff	21	91.30%

<b>Governor</b>	4	17.39%
<b>Local business</b>	0	0.00%
<b>Local sports group</b>	0	0.00%
<b>Local community group</b>	0	0.00%
<b>Not Answered</b>	0	0.00%

**Other, please specify**

There were 2 responses to this part of the question.

*6: Please tell us the school you are linked to, if applicable.*

**Please tell us the school you are linked to, if applicable**

There were 19 responses to this part of the question.



## Appendix C – Comments received via Citizen Space

“How far do you agree or disagree with the school term dates for pupils proposed for the academic year 2026/2027? - Term dates”

	<b>Why do you say this? Please write in below: - tell us why</b>
Agree	expected dates - no date for norfolk show though
Agree	Generally well thought out. The autumn term is too long 8 and 7 weeks half terms are too long, whilst just under 5 week before Easter is too short. I'd like it if we could work towards every half term being 6 or 7. I appreciate that Easter and Christmas dates are out of your control and this makes it hard.
Strongly agree	The additional Friday on October half term really helps.
Strongly disagree	Finishing midweek on Wednesday 21st July causes problems with regards to attendance as families would be inclined to take the final three days off school and avoid a fine. This year our Governors opted to alter the calendar to overcome broken weeks and finish at the end of a normal week. We decided to remain open on suggested training days and make up the additional INSET days with twilights.
Agree	The first week back in September is a very short one for the children, so not ideal. Part weeks are difficult in general.
Disagree	It feels very early to be coming back to school on 1st September. I would favour staff training days on 3rd and 4th September followed by a return of children on Monday 7th and then children breaking up from school on Friday 23rd July to make up the 2 additional days.
Agree	Think Easter is too long - put it onto October or May half term.
Disagree	I would personally like to have a 2 week break at October half term and have 1 less week during the summer. This would give parents an opportunity to go on holiday for 2 weeks and not have to take time off school. It would also mean a shorter summer holiday, where children regress due to the length of time off school, and gives children and staff more of a break in October when the half terms are often longer, there is more going on and pupils struggle to come back after the summer break for 7 or 8 weeks- helping new reception children too.
Strongly agree	The slightly longer half term break helps staff and families to have a cheaper holiday as they can fly on the Friday. This should help with term time attendance/holiday absence.
Agree	It looks in line with previous years and should work fine.
Agree	
Agree	
Agree	I prefer not to have a CPD Day on the Friday before half-term as end of half-term CPD Days are less productive for

	staff in my experience. I would rather have a CPD Day at the start of both the spring and summer terms.
Strongly agree	They currently match the Suffolk proposed term dates and as a parent working in Suffolk but living in Norfolk, it means that I can at least spend the holidays with my children/family.
Agree	
Strongly agree	Holiday dates are arranged so that meaningful INSET can take place as opposed to placing these at the beginning of the summer holidays which is not good use of time. Whilst schools can then hold twilights to avoid using these, in practice this is not family friendly and only places more pressure on exhausted school staff already working at full capacity during term time. The additional day by the October 1/2 term is particularly useful.
Disagree	We will use the 3 INSET days highlighted in the model calendar (23rd October, 4th January and 12th April as school days, doing twilight training for these. By front loading the calendar the children get as much learning as possible well before the summer holidays. We will close on Friday 16th July 2027.
Neither agree or disagree	From a staff CPD and well being point of view these dates are fine.  From a pupil attendance point of view it would be better to be in school on the 23rd October, 4th January and 12th March thus finishing on the 16th July as many parents and carers will take advantage of the three/four days weeks and no fines and take their children out of school for holidays.
Strongly agree	Sensible placing of holidays
Strongly agree	Well positioned dates. No obvious issues / problems with the proposal
Strongly agree	The training day in October is really helpful, it also enables parents a holiday which is often cheaper for them.
Neither agree or disagree	Most of my staff would prefer one less week in the summer and increase other holidays across the year. Christmas is a time that I think that staff would particularly benefit from a few additional days. Also, as a Headteacher I would like the flexibility to set my own training days.
Agree	