



School Session Dates for the Academic Years 2027/28 and 2028/29

Report by Derek Oliver, Executive Director Children, Young People and Partnerships (Acting)

Report for Decision

1 Recommendations

Council is requested to:

- i. agree the school session dates proposed for the academic year 2027/28.
- ii. agree the school session dates proposed for the academic year 2028/29.

2 Purpose of Report/Executive Summary

The authority is required to set school session dates annually, in accordance with statutory attendance requirements.

Proposed session dates for Midlothian schools for the **2027/28** and **2028/29** academic years have been prepared. These dates have been aligned as closely as possible with those proposed by neighbouring local authorities. A consultation on the draft dates took place from **26 January 2026 to 9 February 2026**.

The proposed session dates are provided in **Appendix B**.

Date 18 February 2026

Report Contact:

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3 Background

Officers from Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian Councils aim to align session dates wherever possible, taking into account differences in local holidays. Edinburgh and East Lothian have not yet undertaken consultation on their proposed dates.

For the **2027/28 academic session**, it is proposed that:

- The session will begin on **Monday 16 August 2027**
- Pupils will resume on **Wednesday 18 August 2027**
- The final day of the session will be **Friday 30 June 2028**

For the **2028/29 academic session**, it is proposed that:

- The session will begin on **Monday 14 August 2028**
- Pupils will resume on **Wednesday 16 August 2028**
- The final day of the session will be **Friday 29 June 2029**

The proposed session dates are included in **Appendix B** of this report.

4 Consultation and Feedback

A consultation was carried out from Monday 26 January until Monday 9 February. Information was disseminated to unions parents/carers, parent councils and staff. Information regarding the consultation was also put on the Council website. Stakeholders were asked to give their feedback via the Education Consultation system.

There were **405 respondents** to the consultation, with 68% of those agreeing with the proposed session dates for 2027/28.

Agree	276	68%
Disagree	58	14%
No Opinion	71	18%
Total	405	

Respondents were asked to indicate their preference between two proposed options for the **2028/29 session dates**.

Option 1 proposed that Midlothian schools would close for the December holiday on **Friday 22 December**, with staff returning on **Monday 8 January** and pupils returning on **Tuesday 9 January**.

Option 2 proposed that schools would close on **Wednesday 20 December**, with both staff and pupils returning on **Thursday 4 January**. Under this option, the in-service day normally held in January would move to **Monday 19 February**.

A total of **73% of respondents selected Option 1** as their preferred choice.

Option 1	296	73%
Option 2	105	26%
No Opinion	4	1%
Total	405	

Of the **405 respondents**, **161 provided additional comments**. The majority who favoured **Option 1** highlighted benefits including improved wellbeing, greater educational continuity, and better alignment with family and work commitments. There was also strong support for retaining an **in-service day in January**.

Option 2 has notable, but minority, support primarily from those prioritising more time before Christmas for family events or early January work commitments.

Midlothian will continue to undertake consultation with neighboring authorities with the aim of maintaining alignment of school session dates for future years.

4 Report Implications (Resource, Digital and Risk)

4.1 Resource

None

4.2 Digital

None

4.3 Risk

By aligning with neighbouring authorities risk implications are mitigated with regard to pupil attendance at school.

4.4 Ensuring Equalities (if required a separate IIA must be completed)

This report does not recommend any change to policy or practice and therefore does not require an Equalities Impact Assessment.

4.4 Additional Report Implications (See Appendix A)

See Appendix A

Appendices

Appendix A – Additional Report Implications

Appendix B – School session dates

APPENDIX A – Report Implications

A.1 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

N/A

A.2 Key Drivers for Change

Key drivers addressed in this report:

- Holistic Working
- Hub and Spoke
- Modern
- Sustainable
- Transformational
- Preventative
- Asset-based
- Continuous Improvement
- One size fits one
- None of the above

A.3 Key Delivery Streams

Key delivery streams addressed in this report:

- One Council Working with you, for you
- Preventative and Sustainable
- Efficient and Modern
- Innovative and Ambitious
- None of the above

A.4 Delivering Best Value

The report does not directly impact on delivering Best Value

A.5 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

Proposed dates have been shared and feedback sought from establishments and parents and union representatives. Session dates where possible have been synchronised with the City of Edinburgh and East Lothian Councils.

A.6 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

Session dates have been designed to maximise attendance by minimising the number of broken weeks for staff and pupils.

A.7 Adopting a Preventative Approach

N/A

A.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

This proposal takes into account the need to deliver an educational service across Midlothian which anticipates and acknowledges the needs and views of stakeholders.

APPENDIX B

MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & PARTNERSHIPS School Session Dates 2027/28

TERM 1	Staff Resume	Monday **	16	August	2027
	Pupils Resume	Wednesday	18	August	2027
	Autumn Holiday	Friday	17	September	2027
		Monday	20	September	2027
Mid Term	All Break	Friday	15	October	2027
	Staff Resume	Monday*	25	October	2027
	Pupils Resume	Tuesday	26	October	2027
	Term Ends	Tuesday	21	December	2027
TERM 2	Staff Resume	Wednesday*	5	January	2028
	All Resume	Thursday	6	January	2028
Mid Term	All Break	Friday	11	February	2028
	Pupils Resume	Monday	21	February	2028
	Term Ends	Thursday	30	March	2028
	Good Friday	14th April			
Easter Monday	17th April				
TERM 3	All Resume	Tuesday	18	April	2028
	May Day Holiday	Monday	1	May	2028
	Victoria Day	Monday*	22	May	2028
	Term Ends	Friday	30	June	2028

* **Staff In-Service Days:** Monday 16th & Tuesday 17th August 2027
Monday 25th October 2027
Wednesday 5th January & Monday 22nd May 2028

Start date for session 2027/28 is Wednesday 18th August 2027

**MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL
CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & PARTNERSHIPS
School Session Dates 2028/29**

TERM 1	Staff Resume	Monday **	14	August	2028
	Pupils Resume	Wednesday	16	August	2028
	Autumn Holiday	Friday	15	September	2028
		Monday	18	September	2028
Mid Term	All Break	Friday	13	October	2028
	Staff Resume	Monday*	23	October	2028
	Pupils Resume	Tuesday	24	October	2028
	Term Ends	Friday	22	December	2028
TERM 2	Staff Resume	Monday*	8	January	2029
	Pupils Resume	Tuesday	9	January	2029
Mid Term	All Break	Friday	9	February	2029
	All Resume	Monday	19	February	2029
	Term Ends	Thursday	29	March	2029
	<i>Good Friday</i>	<i>30th March</i>			
	<i>Easter Monday</i>	<i>2nd April</i>			
TERM 3	All Resume	Tuesday	17	April	2029
	May Day Holiday	Monday	7	May	2029
	Victoria Day	Monday*	21	May	2029
	Term Ends	Friday	29	June	2029

*** Staff In-Service Days:** Monday 14th & Tuesday 15th August 2028
Monday 23rd October 2028
Monday 8th January & Monday 21st May 2029

Start date for session 2028/29 is Wednesday, 16th August 2028