

School Session Dates 2025-2027**Report by Fiona Robertson, Executive Director, Children, Young People and Partnerships****Report for Decision****1 Recommendations**

Council is requested to:

- i. agree the school session dates proposed for the academic year 2025/26.
- ii. agree the school session dates proposed for the academic year 2026/27.

2 Purpose of Report/Executive Summary

The authority is required to set school session dates each year with regard to statutory attendance.

A scheme of session dates for Midlothian schools for the next two academic years, 2025/26 and 2026/27, has been drawn up. These session dates align closely with the dates set by neighbouring local authorities. Consultation was undertaken on these dates in April 2024 and they have been agreed with MNCT.

The proposed session dates are attached to this report as Appendix B.

Date 10 April 2024

Report Contact:

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3 Background

Officers from Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian Councils endeavour to synchronise session dates wherever possible, bearing in mind some differences in local holidays.

It has been possible to achieve close alignment for the next two years. The only differences in are:

- East Lothian and Edinburgh start the December earlier, on the 18 December 2026/27, while we propose the 22 December.
- East Lothian have a February in-service day rather than January.

It is proposed that Midlothian will start the 2025/26 academic session on Monday 11 August, with pupils commencing on Wednesday 13 August. The last day of the Midlothian school session will be Friday 26 June 2026.

It is proposed that Midlothian will start the 2026/27 academic session on Tuesday 11 August, with pupils commencing on Thursday 13 August. The last day of the Midlothian school session will be Tuesday 29 June 2027.

The proposed session dates are attached to this report as Appendix B.

4 Consultation and Feedback

On 23 April 2024 MNCT agreed these proposed session dates.

A consultation was carried out from Tuesday 16 April until Monday 22 April. Information was disseminated to unions parents/carers, parent councils and staff. Information regarding the consultation was also put on the Council website. People were asked to give their feedback via the Education Consultation system.

There were 570 respondents to the consultation, with 58% of those agreeing with the proposed session dates. Of the 570 respondents, 273 provided further comments. While generally positive, the main concern was around Easter weekend and April break in 2027. However, if we moved the April break to be continuous with Easter, term three would be a week longer. This proposal also aligns with the proposals in Edinburgh and East Lothian.

Agree	332	58%
Disagree	169	30%
No opinion	69	12%
Total	570	

Midlothian will continue to undertake consultation with neighbouring 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 2025/26**

TERM 1	Staff Resume	Monday *	11	August	2025
	Pupils Resume	Wednesday	13	August	2025
	Autumn Holiday	Friday	12	September	2025
		Monday	15	September	2025
Mid Term	All Break	Friday	10	October	2025
	Staff Resume	Monday*	20	October	2025
	Pupils Resume	Tuesday	21	October	2025
	Term Ends	Friday	19	December	2025
TERM 2	Staff Resume	Monday*	5	January	2026
	All Resume	Tuesday	6	January	2026
Mid Term	All Break	Friday	13	February	2026
	Pupils Resume	Monday	23	February	2026
	Term Ends				
	All Break	Thursday	2	April	2026
	<i>Good Friday</i>	<i>3rd April</i>			
	<i>Easter Monday</i>	<i>6th April</i>			
TERM 3	All Resume	Tuesday	21	April	2026
	May Day Holiday	Monday	4	May	2026
	Victoria Day	Monday*	18	May	2026
	Term Ends	Friday	26	June	2026

*** Staff In-Service Days:** Monday 11th & Tuesday 12th August 2025
Monday 20th October 2025
Monday 5th January & Monday 18th May 2026

Start date for session 2026/27 is Thursday 13th August 2026

**MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL
CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & PARTNERSHIPS
School Session Dates 2026/27**

TERM 1	Staff Resume	Tuesday *	11	August	2026
	Pupils Resume	Thursday	13	August	2026
	Autumn Holiday	Friday	11	September	2026
		Monday	14	September	2026
Mid Term	All Break	Friday	9	October	2026
	Staff Resume	Monday*	19	October	2026
	Pupils Resume	Tuesday	20	October	2026
	Term Ends	Tuesday	22	December	2026
TERM 2	Staff Resume	Wednesday*	6	January	2027
	All Resume	Thursday	7	January	2027
Mid Term	All Break	Friday	12	February	2027
	Pupils Resume	Monday	22	February	2027
Easter	All Break	Thursday	25	March	2027
	<i>Good Friday</i>	<i>26th March</i>			
	<i>Easter Monday</i>	<i>29th March</i>			
	All Resume	Tuesday	30	March	2027
	Term Ends	Friday	2	April	2027
TERM 3	All Resume	Tuesday	20	April	2027
	May Day Holiday	Monday	3	May	2027
	Victoria Day	Monday*	24	May	2027
	Term Ends	Tuesday	29	June	2027

*** Staff In-Service Days:** Tuesday 11th & Wednesday 12th August 2026
Monday 19th October 2026
Wednesday 6th January & Monday 24th May 2027