

Consultation – School term dates 2025/2026

Background

Milton Keynes City Council is required by the Department for Education to set term dates for community and voluntary controlled schools in Milton Keynes. Other types of schools, such as Foundation, Voluntary Aided and Academies set their own term dates. There must be 190 education days. Schools are then free to identify five INSET days (training days) from the remaining 175 days in the year when the school is closed to pupils. The council can only set term dates for community and voluntary controlled schools as the law no longer allows us to ensure that term dates for all schools are aligned.

The mix of schools locally and in neighbouring authorities presents complexities, and means it is difficult to achieve a consistent set of dates which work for all parents, schools and staff working in schools. In recognition of the complexities this consultation sets out a possible option for the 2025/2026 term dates. We are keen to seek your views on this proposal.

*Please note that whilst 190 days are required to be set the proposal below provide 195 days, therefore allowing schools to allocate five training days within these proposed dates.

Proposed option

Term	Open morning of	Close at the end of the afternoon session on	Total days per half term
Autumn Term 2025	1 September 2025	24 October 2025	40
	3 November 2025	19 December 2025	35
Spring Term 2026	5 January 2026	13 February 2026	30
	23 February 2026	27 March 2026	25
Summer Term 2026	13 April 2026	22 May 2026	29
	1 June 2026	20 July 2026	36
			195

Considerations:

- The proposed dates mirror the dates which are being considered and are expected to be proposed by many other schools within Milton Keynes, our neighbouring authorities, and a number of other authorities across our local regions. However, there is no guarantee that other stakeholders will determine these dates.

- Milton Keynes school colleagues indicated a preference for term dates to be evenly spread and aligning with key public holidays where possible. There is also a strong desire for the term dates to mirror neighbouring authorities where possible, and a willingness for schools that set their own dates to align with others across Milton Keynes.
- The Easter bank holiday weekend falls in the middle of the Easter break.

Who decides term dates?

For community and voluntary controlled schools in Milton Keynes, it is a political decision made by the Cabinet member for Children and Families. We are therefore seeking your feedback on these proposed dates beforehand to ensure that they are suitable. A summary of the responses from this consultation will be included as part of the decision-making process.

Your views

To give us your comments on the proposed term dates for 2025/2026 please either:

- complete our online form by 25 February 2024
- email: sufficiencyandaccess@milton-keynes.gov.uk

A calendar of the proposed term dates is attached.