

School Calendar - Guiding Principles for Yorkshire and North East Regions

- 1.0 The 12 Yorkshire Authorities listed along with all 12 authorities in the North East region will work together to establish common school holiday dates each year:

Barnsley	Leeds
Bradford	North Yorkshire
Calderdale	Rotherham
Doncaster	Sheffield
East Yorkshire	Wakefield
Kirklees	York

- 2.0 The school year will consist of 195 school days. Pupils must attend on 190 of those days.
- 3.0 The starting point for consideration of each year's holiday pattern will be the pattern recommended by the LGA for that school year modified as per these principles.
- 4.0 Wherever possible, in any academic year, terms should be of equal length and split weeks avoided or kept to a minimum. Where there is an odd number of weeks the second half term should be the shorter of the two.

5.0 **Start of the School Year**

The school year will normally start on the first day of September.

6.0 **Autumn Half Term**

The Autumn half term break will be the five days which are the last period Monday to Friday in October. According to the year, October half term can start as early as Monday 21 and as late as Monday 27 October.

7.0 **Christmas Break**

The Christmas break will include at least 10 school days, and will normally start at the end of the school day on the Friday which is on, or otherwise immediately prior to, 22 December. It will include the New Year's day holiday which is outside that period, and the day after New Years Day, where this is a weekday.

8.0 **February Half Term**

The February half term holiday will be five days Monday to Friday, which divides the term as far as possible into two equal parts. Where there is an odd number of weeks the second half term will be the shorter of the two.

9.0 **Easter Break**

The Spring Term will normally end at the close of the afternoon session on the Friday before Good Friday. The holiday will be 10 school days.

Where the LGA recommended patterns would result in a break between the Easter bank holidays and the school Easter holiday, consideration will be given to modifying Easter to incorporate the bank holidays in the school holiday. The Easter bank holidays could be at the start (with the Spring Term ending at the close of the afternoon session on the

Thursday before Good Friday), middle, or end of the school Easter break, but never outside of the break itself.

10.0 Spring Bank Half Term

The Spring Bank half term will be five days Monday to Friday from the statutory holiday which falls as the last Monday in May.

11.0 End of the School Year

Taking into account the above pattern, term will end on the date which achieves 195 school days of which five days shall be declared as training days. The term will normally end on the third Friday in July.

The summer break will not be less than five weeks and preferably not less than six weeks.

12.0 Exceptions

Some LEAs (such as Bradford and Calderdale) have historically provided for a number of occasional (training) days within the schedule. These days allow schools to be responsive to their respective community needs. The schedule normally provides for between 3 – 5 occasional days which are found by reducing the half terms to three days in length.

13.0 Polling Day

In nominating the five training days, governing bodies must accommodate the use of the school as a polling station, where needed. Where schools close on polling day governing bodies should use this as a training day.