

APPENDIX A: CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2026-2027



BRIEFING REPORT

School term and holiday dates are set by the local authority for Community and Voluntary Controlled (VC) schools and maintained nursery schools. Own admission authority schools may not follow the term dates set by the local authority. As in previous years, we are proposing to consult on and publicise term dates for 2026-2027 and recommend that all the schools in Plymouth adopt them. Both Devon and Cornwall Councils are proposing to take the same approach. The dates for 2025-2026 have already been agreed and are available on the Plymouth City Council website.

As with the 2025-2026 dates, the proposed 2026-2027 dates for Plymouth schools closely match those proposed by Devon County Council and Cornwall Council, variations are due to Plymouth working on a 200 day calendar, Devon on 197 days and Cornwall on 195 days.

The proposed dates for Plymouth schools continue to support the Council's aims of setting school terms of more or less equal length and reducing the number of part weeks at the beginning and end of terms.

The tables below compare the proposed dates for Plymouth, Devon and Cornwall Councils.

2026-2027

TERM	Plymouth	Devon	Cornwall
1	3 Sept – 23 Oct 2026	3 Sept – 23 Oct 2026	3 Sept – 23 Oct 2026
2	2 Nov – 18 Dec 2026	2 Nov – 18 Dec 2026	2 Nov – 18 Dec 2026
3	5 Jan – 12 Feb 2027	4 Jan – 12 Feb 2027	4 Jan – 12 Feb 2027
4	22 Feb – 25 Mar 2027	22 Feb – 25 Mar 2027	22 Feb – 25 Mar 2027
5	12 Apr – 28 May 2027	12 Apr – 28 May 2027	12 Apr – 28 May 2027
6	7 Jun -26 Jul 2027	7 Jun -27 Jul 2027	7 Jun -23 Jul 2027

* Governing bodies can choose to use three of their Occasional Days to make the February holiday a full week.

We undertook a consultation with stakeholders to ascertain the views of all interested parties on the proposed school term and holiday dates. The responses are categorised as follows;

School / setting	Agree	Disagree
Maintained Secondary	0	0
Academy Secondary & Independent	1	1
Maintained Primary	0	0
Academy Primary	0	0
Maintained Special	1	1
Academy Special	0	0

Those who disagreed would prefer a two-week October half term and this could be explored as a focussed separate consultation in the future and with agreement from other Local Authorities. When published the advice to parents is to check with the school for any variation to these dates.