

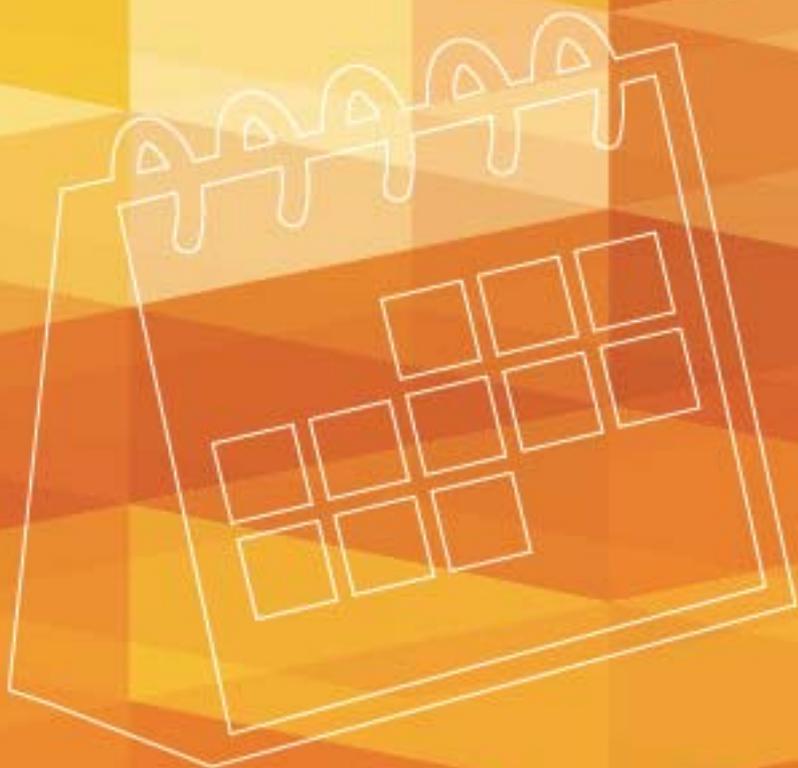


The Organisation of School Time in Europe

*Primary and General
Secondary Education*

2017/18

Eurydice – Facts and Figures





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Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency
Education and Youth Policy Analysis
Avenue du Bourget 1 (J-70 – Unit A7)
BE-1049 Brussels
Tel. +32 2 299 50 58
Fax +32 2 292 19 71
E-mail: eacea-eurydice@ec.europa.eu
Website: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurydice>

KEY POINTS

In the majority of countries, the school year starts at the beginning of September

Despite some differences, countries across Europe show many similarities regarding the structure of the school year. In 10 countries/regions, it generally starts in August. The countries where the school year begins the earliest are Denmark and Finland. In 14 European countries/regions, the school year officially starts on the first of September. In 12 countries, the school starts during the first week of September. In 10 countries/regions, the starting date is usually around mid-September: this is the case in much of Southern Europe (Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Turkey) but also in Bulgaria, Luxembourg, Romania and Slovakia. In Malta, children return to school at the end of September. In Austria, Germany, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands and Switzerland, the beginning and the end of the school year vary significantly according to the regions. In Germany, although there is an official starting date on 1st August, in reality schools in the different *Länder* begin between 3 August and 12 September.

See Figure 1.

Some variations in the number of the school days across Europe

The number of school days varies between 162 days in France (except in upper secondary education) and 200 days in Denmark and Italy. In around half the countries, it is between 170 and 180 days; in 15 countries, the number varies between 181 and 190 days. In general, the number of school days is the same in primary and secondary education but there are a few exceptions: in Belgium, France (upper secondary education) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (Republica Srpska), the number of school days is higher in secondary education than in primary.

The opposite (fewer school days in secondary education than in primary education) is observed in Ireland, Greece, Cyprus and the Netherlands.

See Figure 2.

The distribution of holidays during the school year varies between countries with the exception of the Christmas break

In addition to the summer break, there are four other main periods of school holidays across Europe: the autumn holidays, Christmas and New Year's, winter/Carnival holidays as well the spring/Easter holidays. With the exception of the Christmas/New Year's holiday, other school breaks differ both in length and timing. As some of these holidays are related to flexible calendar dates (Carnival and Easter), their timing changes slightly from year to year. As well as these common holidays, all countries offer additional days of holiday for public or religious occasions.

In the autumn, children have one week of holidays in 19 countries/regions; in the other countries, it varies between two days (e.g. Czech Republic, Iceland and Serbia) to three weeks (Switzerland) or no holidays at all in 12 countries (e.g. Austria, Croatia, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). At Christmas, nearly all countries offer two weeks of holidays; in a few countries, there is only one week (e.g. Slovenia and Poland) and up to three weeks in the case of Germany. The length of the winter/carnival holidays is one week in 21 countries and two weeks in France, Poland and Turkey. At the opposite, eight countries do not have holidays at that period (e.g. Greece and Cyprus).

For the spring/Easter holidays, one week of holidays is organised in 15 countries, two weeks in 15 countries; in the others, between 4 days (e.g. Finland and Slovakia) to three weeks in Switzerland.

See Figure 1.

Regional and local variations exist within some countries

The periods and dates of school holidays may vary within a country. In some countries, such as Germany, Spain, Italy, Austria and Switzerland, regional authorities make these decisions. In Sweden and Norway, the responsibility lies with the municipalities. However, in general, the number of days of teaching is fixed at central level.

In the Czech Republic, Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia (for the winter holidays), Slovakia and Switzerland, the central authorities fix different dates for some periods of holidays according to the geographical area.

Despite some differences in the length of holidays, the pattern of holidays over the school year is similar for both primary and secondary education.

The length of the summer holidays varies a lot across Europe

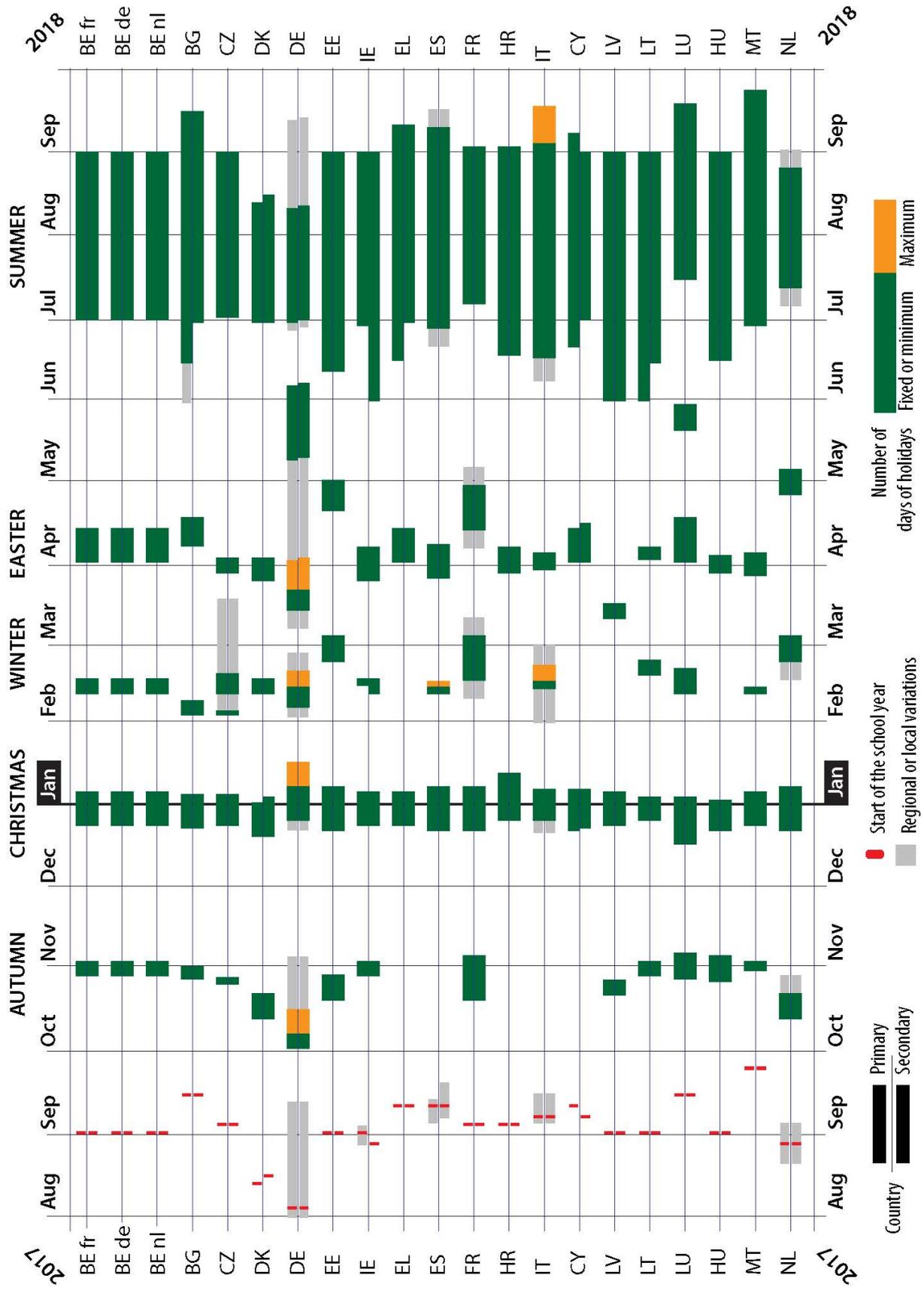
In Europe, the school year generally ends between the end of May and the second half of July. Mid-June is the time when the summer break begins in most countries. The length of the summer holidays varies significantly between countries: from 6 weeks in some German *Länder*, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom (England, Wales and Scotland) and Liechtenstein up to 13 weeks in Latvia, Portugal (secondary education), and Turkey, between 12 and 14 weeks in Italy and even 15 weeks in Bulgaria (for primary education). The summer holidays are usually shorter in those countries where students have more frequent and longer holidays during the school year.

Some countries show differences in the length of summer holidays depending on the level of education. In secondary education in Ireland, Portugal, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Iceland, students start the summer holidays earlier than in primary education.

At the opposite, in Bulgaria, Greece, Cyprus, Lithuania and Serbia, students in primary education begin their summer holidays before those in secondary education.

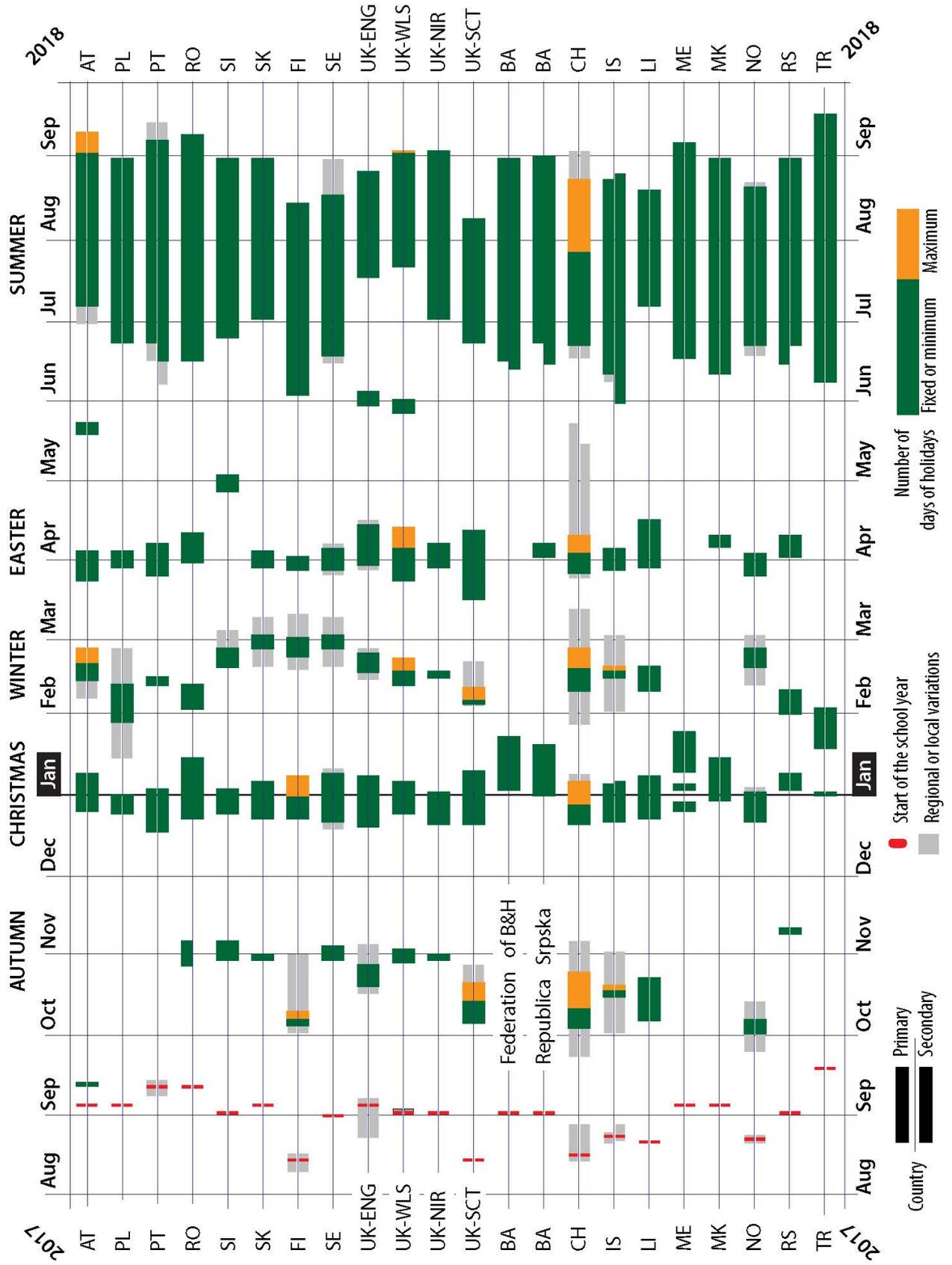
See Figure 3.

Figure 1: Length of the school year and distribution of holidays, general education, ISCED 1-3, 2017/18



NB: Denmark, Hungary and Latvia: The distinction is made between primary and lower secondary education (single structure) on one hand and upper secondary on the other hand.

Figure 1 (continued): Length of the school year and distribution of holidays, general education, ISCED 1-3, 2017/18



NB: Slovenia, Sweden, Serbia and Iceland: The distinction is made between primary and lower secondary education (single structure) on one hand and upper secondary on the other hand.

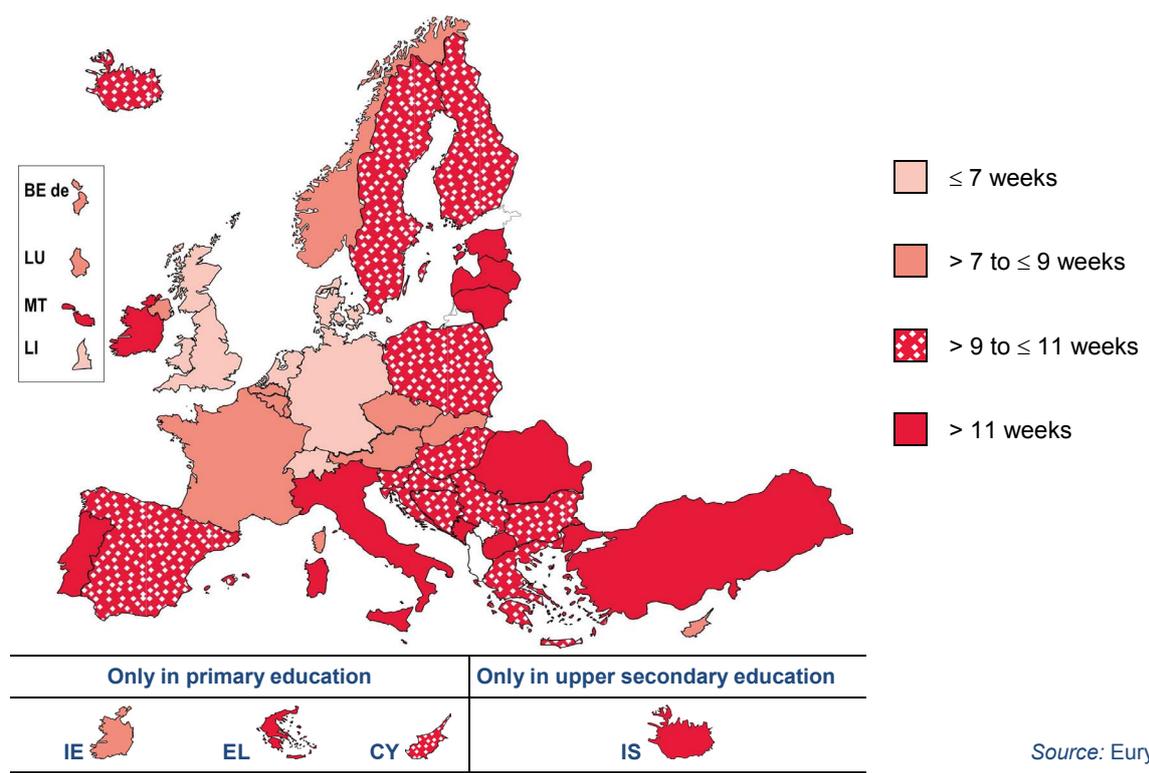
Figure 2: Number of school days, 2017/18



Country specific note

Poland: (*) In the school year 2017/18, the number of school days varies between 178 and 185 depending on the type of school. The precise number of school days in a given school is left to the school head's discretion.

Figure 3: Length of summer holidays (in weeks), primary and secondary general education, 2017/18



Source: Eurydice.

Country specific notes

Bulgaria: Between 11 and 15 weeks in primary education.
Italy: Up to 14 weeks in primary and secondary education.
Switzerland: Between 5 and 11 weeks.

AUSTRIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/18

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	4 September 2017: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 11 September 2017: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg	4 September 2017: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 11 September 2017: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg
End of students' school year	29 June 2018: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 6 July 2018: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg	29 June 2018: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 6 July 2018: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 24 December 2017 – 6 January 2018	2 weeks 24 December 2017 – 6 January 2018
Winter/Carnival	1 week 5-10 February 2018: Niederösterreich, Vorarlberg, Wien 12-17 February 2018: Burgenland, Kärnten, Salzburg, Tirol 19-24 February 2018: Oberösterreich, Steiermark	1 week 5-10 February 2018: Niederösterreich, Vorarlberg, Wien 12-17 February 2018: Burgenland, Kärnten, Salzburg, Tirol 19-24 February 2018: Oberösterreich, Steiermark
Spring/Easter	1 week 24 March – 3 April 2018	1 week 24 March – 3 April 2018
Third term	4 days 19 May – 22 May 2018	4 days 19 May – 22 May 2018
Summer	About 9 weeks 30 June – 2 September 2018: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 7 July – 9 September 2018: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg	About 9 weeks 30 June – 2 September 2018: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 7 July – 9 September 2018: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg
Public/religious holidays	1 November 2017 2 November 2017 8 December 2017 1 May 2018 10 May 2018 31 May 2018 1 extra religious holiday per province (<i>Land</i>)	1 November 2017 2 November 2017 8 December 2017 1 May 2018 10 May 2018 31 May 2018 1 extra religious holiday per province (<i>Land</i>)
Starting/End date of teachers' school year	The teachers' school year is the same as the pupils' school year	The teachers' school year is the same as the pupils' school year

BELGIUM (FLEMISH COMMUNITY)

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/18

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2017	1 September 2017
End of students' school year	30 June 2018	30 June 2018
Autumn holidays	1 week 30 October – 5 November 2017	1 week 30 October – 5 November 2017
Christmas/New Year holidays	2 weeks 25 December 2017 – 7 January 2018	2 weeks 25 December 2017 – 7 January 2018
Winter/Carnival	1 week 12-18 February 2018	1 week 12-18 February 2018
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 2-15 April 2018	2 weeks 2-15 April 2018
Third term	Between Easter holidays and summer holidays	Between Easter holidays and summer holidays
Summer	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2018	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2018
Public holidays (national/religious/occasional)	1 and 2 November 2017 (All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day) 11 November 2017 (Armistice Day) 2 April 2018 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2018 (Labour Day) 10-11 May 2018 (Ascension Day) 21 May 2018 (Whit Monday) + 4 days to be decided by the school	1 and 2 November 2017 (All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day) 11 November 2017 (Armistice Day) 2 April 2018 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2018 (Labour Day) 10-11 May 2018 (Ascension Day) 21 May 2018 (Whit Monday) + 4 days to be decided by the school
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2017	1 September 2017
End of teachers' school year	30 June 2018	30 June 2018

BELGIUM (FRENCH COMMUNITY)

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/18

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2017	1 September 2017
End of students' school year	30 June 2018	30 June 2018
Autumn holidays	1 week 30 October – 3 November 2017	1 week 30 October – 3 November 2017
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 25 December 2017 – 5 January 2018	2 weeks 25 December 2017 – 5 January 2018
Winter/Carnival	1 week 12-16 February 2018	1 week 12-16 February 2018
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 2-13 April 2018	2 weeks 2-13 April 2018
Summer	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2018	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2018
Public/religious holidays	27 September 2017 1 May 2018 10 May 2018 21 May 2018	27 September 2017 1 May 2018 10 May 2018 21 May 2018
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2017	1 September 2017
End of teachers' school year	30 June 2018	30 June 2018

Source: Eurydice.

BELGIUM (GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY)

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/18

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2017	1 September 2017
End of students' school year	30 June 2018	30 June 2018
Autumn holidays	1 week 30 October – 3 November 2017	1 week 30 October – 3 November 2017
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 25 December 2017 – 5 January 2018	2 weeks 25 December 2017 – 5 January 2018
Winter/Carnival	1 week 12-16 February 2018	1 week 12-16 February 2018
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 2-13 April 2018	2 weeks 2-13 April 2018
Third term	–	–
Summer	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2018	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2018
Public/religious holidays	15 November 2017 1 May 2018 10 May 2018 21 May 2018	15 November 2017 1 May 2018 25 May 2018 21 May 2018
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2017	1 September 2017
End of teachers' school year	30 June 2018	30 June 2018

Additional notes

- During the last working days of August, secondary education teachers may be consigned to conduct exams of a second chance.
- A school year has a minimum of 180 and a maximum of 184 days of school days. In 2018, the school year will have 180 days.
- As the 15 November and the 24 December 2017 are public and religious holidays (Armistice and Christmas), it is left to the school to choose 2 compensation days.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/18

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2017	1 September 2017
End of students' school year	15 June 2018 (8 June 2018 in the final year)	15 June 2018 (1 June 2018 in the final year)
Winter holidays	3-22 January 2018	3-22 January 2018
Spring/Easter	–	-
Summer holidays	16 June – 31 August 2018	13 June – 31 August 2018
Public/religious holidays	<p>Public holidays: 25 November 2017 (Statehood Day) 1-2 January 2018 (New Year) 1 March 2018 (Independence Day) 1-2 May 2018 (International Labour Day)</p> <p>Religious holidays: 1 September 2017 (Eid al-Adha) 25 December 2017 (Catholic Christmas) 31 Mart 2018 (Pesah) 1 April 2018 (Catholic Easter) 8 April 2018 (Orthodox Easter)</p>	
Starting date of teachers' school year	21 August 2017	21 August 2017
End of teachers' school year	30 June 2018	30 June 2018

Additional notes

Religious holidays are celebrated depending on the religious community.

There are some differences between the cantons within the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The given data are the most common for most cantons. Apart from these dates, each canton (ten in total) has established its own celebration day.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (CONTINUED)

Republika Srpska

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/18

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2017	1 September 2017
End of students' school year	22 June 2018 (8 June 2018 in the final year)	14 June 2018 (17 May 2018 in the final year)
Winter holidays	1-19 January 2018	1-19 January 2018
Spring/Easter	2-6 April 2018	2-6 April 2018
Summer holidays	23 June – 1 September 2018	15 June – 1 September 2018
Public/religious holidays	<p>Public holidays: 21 November 2017 (Day of establishing of General Framework Agreement for Peace) 1-2 January 2018 (New Year) 9 January Day of Republic 1-2 May 2018 (International Labour Day) 9 May 2018 (Day of victory over fascism)</p> <p>Religious holidays: 25 December 2017 (Catholic Christmas) 1 April 2018 (Catholic Easter) 8 April 2018 (Orthodox Easter)</p>	
Starting date of teachers' school year	21 August 2017	21 August 2017
End of teachers' school year	30 June 2018	30 June 2018

Additional notes

Religious holidays are celebrated depending the religion community. Holidays which are dated on non-working days are not taken into account.

BULGARIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/18

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	15 September 2017	15 September 2017
End of students' school year	Year I-V: 31 May 2018 Year V-VIII: 15 June 2018 Year VIII*: 30 June 2018	Year VIII*: 30 June 2018 Year IX, X, XI: 30 June 2018 Year XII: 15 May 2018
Autumn holidays	29 October – 1 November 2017	29 October – 1 November 2017
Christmas/New Year	24 December 2017 – 4 January 2018	24 December 2017 – 4 January 2018
Winter/Carnival	4-8 February 2018	4-8 February 2018 Year XII: 4-6 February 2018
Spring/Easter	8-17 April 2018	8-17 April 2018 Year XII: 13-17 April 2018
Summer	Year I-IV: 31 May – 15 September 2018 Year V-VIII: 15 June – 15 September 2018 Year VIII*: 30 June – 15 September 2018	Year VIII*: 30 June – 15 September 2018 Year IX-XI: 30 June – 15 September 2018
Public/religious holidays	22 September 2017 24 December 2017 3 March 2018 1 May 2018 6 May 2018 24-25 May 2018	22 September 2017 24 December 2017 3 March 2018 1 May 2018 6 May 2018 24-25 May 2018
Starting date of teachers' school year	See Additional notes	See Additional notes
End of teachers' school year	See Additional notes	See Additional notes

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes

Year VIII* (18 study weeks) is made up of students who have been admitted, after completed year 7, to secondary schools after successfully passing admission exams. During this year they take intensive foreign language classes, the number of which prevails significantly in comparison with the number of classes assigned to the rest of the studied at this school level, subjects.

Teachers' school year: The length of the teachers' school year is defined at school level. The school head is responsible for setting and drawing up of the school's timetable. The most common situation is when teachers, on employment contract, are required to be present and at disposal at school at the beginning of September so that they can get prepared well in advance and deal with the school documentation for the new school year.

The end of the teachers' school year is also determined at school level. If teachers are needed to be at school in order to help, complete or close the school documentation, or if they are involved in other out-of-class activities, school projects, initiatives, etc., they usually are supposed to stay extra days after the beginning of the summer holidays for pupils.

CROATIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/18

	Primary and general secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	4 September 2017
End of students' school year	15 June 2018
Winter holidays	27 December 2017 – 12 January 2018
Spring holidays	29 March – 6 April 2018
Summer holidays	18 June 2018 – (to be decided in 2018)
Public/religious holidays	1 November 2017 (All Saints Day) 1 May 2018 (International Labour Day) 31 May 2018 (Corpus Christi)
Starting date of teachers' school year	28 August 2018
End of teachers' school year	13 July 2018

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes

Starting from the school year 2010/11, counties, regional administrative units (in total 21) are allowed to request some modifications of the school calendar for the coming year (the date of the beginning of the school year and the duration of the winter break) which apply at the County level.

CYPRUS

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/18

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year*	11 September 2017	7 September 2017 (see Additional notes)
End of students' school year*	20 June 2018	(see Additional notes)
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 23 December 2017 – 6 January 2018	2 weeks 24 December 2017 – 6 January 2018
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 2-13 April 2018	2 weeks 2-15 April 2018
Summer	11 weeks 21 June – 7 September 2018	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2018
Public/religious holidays	13 November 2017 30 January 2018 19 February 2018 1 May 2018 17 May 2018 28 May 2018 11 June 2018	13 November 2017 30 January 2018 19 February 2018 1 May 2018 28 May 2018 11 June 2018
Starting date of teachers' school year**	4 September 2017	1 September 2017
End of teachers' school year**	22 June 2018	30 June 2018

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes

Primary education

***Students:** In primary education, lessons begin on the second Monday of September and end on the Wednesday before the penultimate Friday of June. The total number of school days for the school year 2017/18 is 176 and for the holidays 84.

****Teachers:** Teachers in primary education need to be at school from the first Monday of September until the penultimate Friday of June. The official teachers' school year is longer than student's school year in primary education as it includes preparation of the school timetable, sorting out of classes and lessons, and a two-day teachers' professional learning programme. The total number of school days for the school year 2017/18 is 183 and for the holidays 77. In primary education, according to the Regulations for the Functioning of Primary Education Schools, the official school year is from 1 September each year until the 31 August next year (1 September 2017 – 31 August 2018).

Secondary Education

***Students:** In secondary education lessons begin on the 5th working day of September. In lower secondary education, the students' school year ends on any day during the last week of May. In upper secondary education, the students' school year ends for the C' form (3rd grade of Lyceum) on any day during the first ten days of May and for A & B form (1st and 2nd grade of Lyceum), on any day between 11 May and 20 May. The Minister may, in cases where unforeseen circumstances require this, to set different dates for the above mentioned days.

****Teachers:** In general secondary education, the end of the school year is at the end of June after exams, correction of papers and result announcements. The official teachers' school year is longer than students' school year in secondary education as it includes registration days. In secondary general education, according to the law (Regulations for the Functioning of Secondary Education Schools), the official school year is from 1 September each year until 31 August next year (1 September 2017 – 31 August 2018).

CZECH REPUBLIC

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/18

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	4 September 2017	4 September 2017
End of students' school year	29 June 2018	29 June 2018
Autumn holidays	26-27 October 2017	26-27 October 2017
Christmas/New Year	23 December 2017 – 2 January 2018	23 December 2017 – 2 January 2018
Winter/Carnival	2 February 2018	2 February 2018
Spring/Easter	1 week between 5 February and 18 March 2018 depending on the region (spring holidays) 29 March to 2 April 2018 (Easter)	1 week between 5 February and 18 March 2018 depending on the region (spring holidays) 29 March to 2 April 2018 (Easter)
Summer holidays	2 July – 31 August 2018	2 July – 31 August 2018
Public/religious holidays	28 September 2017 28 October 2017* 17 November 2017 1 May 2018 8 May 2018	28 September 2017 28 October 2017* 17 November 2017 1 May 2018 8 May 2018
Starting date of teachers' school year	Not specified	Not specified
End of teachers' school year	Not specified	Not specified

SPECIFICATION OF TERMS FOR SPRING HOLIDAYS

Term 2018	Regions
5-11 February	Praha 1-5, Blansko, Brno-město, Brno-venkov, Břeclav, Hodonín, Vyškov, Znojmo, Domažlice, Tachov, Louny, Karviná
12-18 February	Praha 6-10, Cheb, Karlovy Vary, Sokolov, Nymburk, Jindřichův Hradec, Litoměřice, Děčín, Přešov, Frýdek-Místek
19-25 February	Kroměříž, Uherské Hradiště, Vsetín, Zlín, Praha-východ, Praha-západ, Mělník, Rakovník, Plzeň-město, Plzeň-sever, Plzeň-jih, Hradec Králové, Teplice, Nový Jičín
26 February – 4 March	Česká Lípa, Jablonec nad Nisou, Liberec, Semily, Havlíčkův Brod, Jihlava, Pelhřimov, Třebíč, Žďár nad Sázavou, Kladno, Kolín, Kutná Hora, Písek, Náchod, Bruntál
5-11 March	Mladá Boleslav, Příbram, Tábor, Prachatice, Strakonice, Ústí nad Labem, Chomutov, Most, Jičín, Rychnov nad Kněžnou, Olomouc, Šumperk, Opava, Jeseník
12-18 March	Benešov, Beroun, Rokycany, České Budějovice, Český Krumlov, Klatovy, Trutnov, Pardubice, Chrudim, Svitavy, Ústí nad Orlicí, Ostrava-město, Prostějov

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes

According to the Labour Code, the holiday for **teachers** at primary and secondary level is 8 weeks each calendar year. They take it primarily in the time of school holidays.

Education Act (No. 561/2004 Coll., Article 24) states that head teachers may, for serious reasons, in particular for organisational and technical reasons, during school lessons permit for pupils of maximum of five (5) days off within the school year. In practice, schools often take this opportunity during the school year.

CZECH REPUBLIC (CONTINUED)

List of days considered holidays:

School year 2017/18

28 September	National holiday	1
26-27 October	Autumn holidays	2
28 October	National holiday	0 (Saturday)*
17 November	National holiday	1
23 December – 2 January	Christmas/New Year	11 (7+4)**
2 February	Winter/Carnival	1
5 February – 18 March	Spring holidays	7 (5+2)**
29 March – 2 April	Easter	5 (3+2)**
1 May	National holiday	1
8 May	National holiday	1
2 July – 31 August	Summer holidays	61 (45+16)**

The total number of holidays: 91 days (67+24)**

Number of school days: 196

Days of weekends: 78***

* In the school year 2017/18, 28 October falls on a Saturday, for this reason we do not count it as a holiday.

** The numbers in brackets represent working days and days of weekends. The total number of holidays is specified accordingly.

*** This number does not include the holiday weekends listed in the note **.

DENMARK

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/18

	Primary and lower secondary education (<i>Folkeskole</i>)	General secondary education (<i>Gymnasium</i>)
Starting date of students' school year	13 August 2017	16 August 2017
End of students' school year	29 June 2018	29 June 2018
Autumn holidays	14-22 October 2017	14-22 October 2017
Christmas/New Year	21 December 2017 – 1 January 2018	21 December 2017 – 3 January 2018
Winter/Carnival	12-16 February 2018 (both days included)	12-16 February 2018 (both days included)
Spring/Easter	26 March – 2 April 2018 (both days included)	26 March – 2 April 2018 (both days included)
Summer	Starting on 30 June 2018	Starting on 30 June 2018
Public/religious holidays	27 April 2018 1 May 2018* 10-11 May 2018 (only 10 May is a public holiday) 21 May 2018 5 June 2018**	27 April 2018 10 May 2018 21 May 2018 5 June 2018**
Starting date of teachers' school year	Not determined at central level – differs at the various schools/institutions. In general, teachers start a few days before pupils/students.	
End of teachers' school year	Not determined at central level. Usually the teachers' school year follows that of the pupils/students.	

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes

The above-mentioned dates for the *Folkeskole* are valid for the schools in Aarhus Municipality: <https://www.aarhus.dk/da/borger/familie-boern-og-unge/Skole/Ferier-og-fridage.aspx>. The number of holidays and public holidays in Aarhus Municipality in the school year 2017/18 (1 August to 2017 to 31 July 2018) is 166 days, including weekends and public holidays. This means that the number of school days is 200.

The dates for upper secondary education are taken from Slagelse Gymnasium: <http://www.slagelse-gym.dk/ferieplanen>. The number of school days in upper secondary education is also 200 per year and 166 days of holidays, public holidays and weekends.

The winter/carnival holiday can vary across the country as it depends on the municipality which usually decides whether the winter holiday is in week 7 or 8.

Folkeskoler, i.e. schools offering comprehensive primary and lower secondary education, are free to decide on the number of holidays and their distribution, given that they offer a minimum of 200 school days each year. The Ministry of Education determines the last day of the school year, which is the case for both primary, lower secondary and general upper secondary education. In addition, the Ministry may also issue guidelines regarding the distribution of holidays.

* Some schools are closed on 1 May (Labour Day) while others are open.

** The Constitution Day (*Grundlovsdag*) 5 June is not a public holiday. However, some schools are closed on this day while others are open.

ESTONIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/18

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2017	1 September 2017
End of students' school year	31 August 2018	31 August 2018
Autumn holidays	1 week 21-29 October 2017	1 week 21-29 October 2017
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 23 December 2017 – 7 January 2018	2 weeks 23 December 2017 – 7 January 2018
Winter	1 week 24 February – 4 March 2018	1 week 24 February – 4 March 2018
Spring	1.5 weeks 21 April – 1 May 2018	1.5 weeks 21 April – 1 May 2018
Summer	11.5 weeks 12 June – 31 August 2018	11.5 weeks 12 June – 31 August 2018
Public/religious holidays	24 February 2018 (Independence Day) 30 March 2018 (Good Friday) 1 May 2018 (May Day)	24 February 2018 (Independence Day) 30 March 2018 (Good Friday) 1 May 2018 (May Day)
Starting date of teachers' school year	The beginning and the end of a teacher's school year depend on the individual school and teacher. According to the legislation, teachers have 56 days (8 weeks) of holidays. Generally, they take holidays in the middle of June and are back in the middle of August.	
End of teachers' school year		

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes

The Basic Schools and Upper Secondary Schools Act (§24) stipulates that an academic year shall start on 1 September and a study period shall include not less than 175 days of study (35 weeks).

School holidays (and accordingly the end of the school year) are determined by a regulation of the Minister of Education and Research for every school year. On the basis of a proposal of the head of the school and with the approval of the board of trustees, the owner of a school may establish school holidays different from those established by the Minister, taking into account that during the academic year there are four school holidays with a total duration of at least 12 weeks, whereby the summer holiday lasts at least eight consecutive weeks.

FINLAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/18

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Between 10 and 16 August 2017	Between 10 and 16 August 2017
End of students' school year	2 June 2018	2 June 2018
Autumn holidays	2-5 days in October 2017	2-5 days in October 2017
Christmas/New Year	1-2 weeks between 23 December 2017 and 7 January 2018	1-2 weeks between 23 December 2017 and 7 January 2018
Winter/Carnival	1 week between 19 February and 11 March 2018	1 week between 19 February and 11 March 2018
Spring/Easter	4 days between 29 March and 2 April 2018	4 days between 29 March and 2 April 2018
Summer	10-11 weeks between 4 June to mid-August 2018	10-11 weeks between 4 June to mid-August 2018
Public/religious holidays	4 November 2017 (All Saints Day) 6 December 2017 (Independence Day) 24 December 2017 (Christmas Eve) (partly) 25 December 2017 (Christmas Day) 26 December 2017 (Boxing Day) 1 January 2018 (New Year's Day) 6 January 2018 (Epiphany) 30 March 2018 (Good Friday) 1 April 2018 (Easter Day) 2 April 2018 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2018 (May Day) 10 May 2018 (Ascension day) 22 June 2018 (Midsummer Eve)	4 November 2017 (All Saints Day) 6 December 2017 (Independence Day) 24 December 2017 (Christmas Eve) (partly) 25 December 2017 (Christmas Day) 26 December 2017 (Boxing Day) 1 January 2018 (New Year's Day) 6 January 2018 (Epiphany) 30 March 2018 (Good Friday) 1 April 2018 (Easter Day) 2 April 2018 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2018 (May Day) 10 May 2018 (Ascension day) 22 June 2018 (Midsummer Eve)
Starting date of teachers' school year ⁽¹⁾	Between 7 and 15 August 2017	Between 7 and 15 August 2017
End of teachers' school year	2 June 2018	2 June 2018

Source: Eurydice.

FINLAND (CONTINUED)

Additional notes

Independence day, Epiphany and 1 May are deducted from the total number of school days (190 days) if they are on any weekday other than Saturday. In the school year 2017/18, the number of school days will consequently be 188.

(¹) There are no exact starting and ending dates of teachers' school year because their duties are regulated according to the collective agreement for teachers. In the agreement, the parties have agreed that the teachers have a calculatory holiday, which begins in mid-June and the length of holiday depends mainly on years in occupation. In practice, teachers' holidays coincide with students' holidays. However, teachers have their planning and INSET obligations, which they have to do both during and outside the school year. In general teachers start a school year a couple days before students.

FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/18

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	4 September 2017	4 September 2017
End of students' school year	8 June 2018	*) 8 June 2018
Christmas/New Year	30 December 2017 – 14 January 2018	30 December 2017 – 14 January 2018
Spring/Easter	6-9 April 2018	6-9 April 2018
Third term	11-18 June 2018: Additional classes for students with low attainment in primary schools 6-13 August 2018: Preliminary classes for students who will take remedial exams or exams for faster progress	11-18 June 2018: Additional classes for students with low attainment 6-13 August 2018: Preliminary classes for students who will take remedial exams or exams for faster progress
Summer	11 June – 31 August 2018	11 June – 31 August 2018
Public holidays (national/religious/occasional)	8 September 2017 (Independence Day) 11 October 2017 (Uprising Day) 23 October 2017 (Day of the Revolutionary Struggle) 8 December 2017 (St. Clement Day) 6-9 April 2018 (Easter) 1 May 2018 (Labour Day) 24 May 2018 (St. Cyril and Methodius Day)	8 September 2017 (Independence Day) 11 October 2017 (Uprising Day) 23 October 2017 (Day of the Revolutionary Struggle) 8 December 2017 (St. Clement Day) 6-9 April 2018 (Easter) 1 May 2018 (Labour Day) 24 May 2018 (St. Cyril and Methodius Day)
Starting date of teachers' school year	8 August 2017	8 August 2017
End of teachers' school year	6 July 2018	6 July 2018

Source: Eurydice.

*) The end of the school year for the fourth grade students in the general secondary schools, third and fourth grade students in vocational secondary schools, and the students of the fourth grade in the artistic vocational schools will be 18 May 2018.

FRANCE

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/18

	Dates or periods
Starting date of students' school year	4 September 2017
End of students' school year	7 July 2018
Autumn holidays	2 weeks 21 October – 5 November 2017
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 23 December 2017 – 7 January 2018
Winter/Carnival	2 weeks 10-25 February 2018 (zone A) 24 February – 11 March 2018 (zone B) 17 February – 4 March 2018 (zone C)
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 7- 22 April 2018 (zone A) 21 April – 6 May 2018 (zone B) 14-29 April 2018 (zone C)
Summer	8 weeks 7 July – 2 September 2018
Public/religious holidays	The following dates are regarded as public holidays by all institutions: 1 November 2017 (All Saints' Day) * 11 November 2017 (1918 Armistice Day) 25 December 2017 (Christmas) * 1 January 2018 (New Year) * 2 April 2018 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2018 (Labour Day) 8 May 2018 (end of WWII in Europe) 10 May 2018 (Ascension Day) 21 May 2018 (Whit Monday) 14 July 2018 (National holiday) * 15 August 2018 (Assumption Day) * * Days already included in 2017/18 school holidays
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2017
End of teachers' school year	7 July 2018

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes

Zone A: Besançon, Bordeaux, Clermont-Ferrand, Dijon, Grenoble, Limoges, Lyon, Poitiers

Zone B: Aix-Marseille, Amiens, Caen, Lille, Nancy-Metz, Nantes, Nice, Orléans-Tours, Reims, Rennes, Rouen, Strasbourg

Zone C: Créteil, Montpellier, Paris, Toulouse, Versailles

FRANCE (CONTINUED)

	Primary education	General secondary education
Total number of academic/school days	36 weeks (including public/religious holidays) <i>ISCED 1: 162 days (4 or 4.5 days/week)¹</i>	36 weeks (including public/religious holidays) <i>ISCED 24: 162 days (4.5 days/week)¹ ISCED 34: 180 days (5 days/week)¹</i>
Total number of holidays	16 weeks	16 weeks

Additional notes

¹⁻ The annual hours of instruction, set by the curriculum for each subject and for each level of education, must be respected regardless of the number of public holidays within a week. **The school year is not set in terms of days but in weeks.** It consists of 36 weeks of work; the public holidays included in the current school year are not deducted. (cf. [Code de l'éducation](#), Article L521-1)

Primary education

Instruction time is provided on Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday all day, and on Wednesday morning, with a maximum of 24 hours of instruction per week, 5 1/2 hours maximum per day and 3 1/2 hours maximum per half-day.

As of September 2017, public primary schools will be allowed to choose a different organization of the school week and distribute the 24 hours of weekly instruction over four days (Mon-Tue-Thu-Fri) – instead of four and a half – as long as instruction time does not exceed six hours per day and three and a half hours per half day (¹). For 2017-2018, 31.8% of schools have chosen a four-day school week, which corresponds to slightly more than a quarter of primary school pupils (28.7%) (²).

Secondary education

A 4.5-day week (Monday to Friday) is most commonly practiced. At the upper secondary level, students often have school on Saturday morning.

(¹) Source: Décret n° 2017-1108 du 27 juin 2017 relatif aux dérogations à l'organisation de la semaine scolaire dans les écoles maternelles et élémentaires publiques:
<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/eli/decret/2017/6/27/MENE1716127D/jo/texte>

(²) Cf. Press release (18/07/2017):
<http://www.education.gouv.fr/cid118949/un-tiers-des-ecoles-a-choisi-d-organiser-la-semaine-scolaire-sur-4-jours-des-la-rentree-2017.html>

GERMANY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/18

Starting date of students' school year	1 August 2017 begin of official school year <i>(for details see table I)</i>
End of students' school year	31 July 2018 end of official school year <i>(for details see table I)</i>
Autumn holidays	5 to 15 days staggered between 2 October and 4 November 2017 <i>(for details see table II)</i>
Christmas/New Year	11 to 21 days staggered between 21 December 2017 and 13 January 2018 <i>(for details see table II)</i>
Winter/Carnival	0 to 12 days staggered between 1 and 23 February 2018 <i>(for details see table II)</i>
Spring/Easter	7 to 16 days staggered between 5 March and 30 April 2018 <i>(for details see table II)</i>
Third term	0 to 12 days staggered between 30 April and 2 June 2018 <i>(for details see table II)</i>
Summer	6 weeks staggered between 25 June and 10 September 2018 <i>(for details see table I)</i>
Public/religious holidays	Up to 10 days, depending on the <i>Land</i>
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 August 2017 (official date)
End of teachers' school year	31 July 2018 (official date)

Source: Eurydice

TABLE I: Specification for starting/end of students' school year and summer holidays

	Beginning of students' school year 2017/18	End of students' school year 2017/18	Summer holidays 2018
Hamburg	31 August 2017	4 July 2018	5 July - 15 August
Berlin	4 September 2017	4 July 2018	5 July – 17 August
Brandenburg	4 September 2017	4 July 2018	5 July – 18 August
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern / Schleswig-Holstein	4 September 2017	7/6 July 2018	9 July –18 August
Bremen / Niedersachsen	3 August 2017	27 June 2018	28 June – 8 August
Rheinland-Pfalz / Hessen Saarland	14 August 2017 15 August 2017	22 June 2018	25 June – 3 August
Sachsen / Thüringen	5 August 2017/ 10 August 2017	30/29 June 2018	2 July – 10/11 August
Sachsen-Anhalt	10 August 2017	27 June 2018	28 June – 8 August
Nordrhein-Westfalen	30 August 2017	13 July 2018	16 July – 28 August
Baden-Württemberg	11 September 2017	25 July 2018	26 July – 8 September
Bayern	12 September 2017	28 July 2018	30 July – 10 September

GERMANY (CONTINUED)

TABLE II: Specification of shorter holiday periods

Land	Autumn 2017	Christmas/New Year 2017/18	Winter 2018	Spring/Easter 2018	3rd term 2018
Baden-Württemberg	30 Oct. – 3 Nov.	22 Dec. – 5 Jan.	-	26 March – 6 Apr.	22 May – 2 June
Bayern	30 Oct. – 3 Nov.	23 Dec. – 5 Jan.	12-16 February	26 March – 7 Apr.	22 May – 2 June
Berlin	2 + 23 October – 4 November	21 Dec. – 2 Jan.	5-10 February	26 March – 6 Apr.	30 April/ 11 + 22 May
Brandenburg	23 Oct. – 4 Nov.	21 Dec. – 2 Jan.	5-10 February	26 Mar. – 6 April	-
Bremen	2-14 + 30 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	1-2 February	19 March – 3 Apr.	30 April/ 11+ 22 May
Hamburg	2 + 16-27 Oct.	22 Dec. – 5 Jan.	2 February	5-16 March	30 April/ 7-11 May
Hessen	9-21 October	24 Dec. – 13 Jan.	-	26 March – 7 Apr.	-
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	23-28 October	21 Dec. – 3 Jan.	5-16 February	26 March – 4 Apr.	18-22 May
Niedersachsen	2-13 + 30 Oct.	22 Dec. – 5 Jan.	1-2 February	19 March – 3 Apr.	30 April/ 11 + 22 May
Nordrhein-Westfalen	23 Oct. – 4 Nov.	27 Dec. – 6 Jan.	-	26 March – 7 Apr.	22-25 May
Rheinland-Pfalz	2-13 October	22 Dec. – 9 Jan.	-	26 March – 6 Apr.	-
Saarland	2-14 October	21 Dec. - 5 Jan.	12-17 February	26 March – 6 Apr.	-
Sachsen	2-14 + 30 Oct.	23 Dec. – 2 Jan.	12-23 February	29 March – 6 Apr.	11 + 19 - 22 May
Sachsen-Anhalt	2-13 + 30 Oct.	21 Dec. – 3 Jan.	5-9 February	26-31 March + 30 April	11-19 May
Schleswig-Holstein	16-27 October	21 Dec. – 6 Jan.	-	29 March – 13 Apr.	11 May
Thüringen	2-14 October	22 Dec. – 5 Jan.	5-9 February	26 March – 7 Apr.	11 May

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes

In accordance with the *Hamburg Agreement* between the *Länder* on harmonisation in the school system, the school year begins on 1 August and ends on 31 July. The actual beginning and end depend on the dates of the summer holidays which vary from one year to the other.

GREECE

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/18

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	11 September 2017	11 September 2017
End of students' school year	15 June 2018	The teaching of subjects is conducted in two periods, called quarters. It lasts until 31 May 2018. At the end of the teaching, school exams follow. The exam dates are regulated by the competent services of the Ministry of Education, while all procedures are completed until 30 June.
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 25 December 2017 – 5 January 2018	2 weeks 25 December 2017 – 5 January 2018
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 2-13 April 2018	2 weeks 2-13 April 2018
Summer	Around 12 weeks 16 June – 10 September 2018	Around 10 weeks After the end of the exam period in June until 10 September 2018
National/religious holidays	28 October 2017 (National holiday, however Saturday this year) 17 November 2017 (National school celebration) 30 January 2018 (Religious school celebration) 19 February 2018 (Religious Holiday) 25 March 2018 (National holiday, however Sunday this year) 1 May 2018 (Labour Day) 28 May 2018 (Religious holiday) and some regional holidays	28 October 2017 (National holiday, however Saturday this year) 17 November 2017 (National school celebration) 30 January 2018 (Religious school celebration) 19 February 2018 (Religious Holiday) 25 March 2018 (National holiday, however Sunday this year) 1 May 2018 (Labour Day) 28 May 2018 (Religious holiday) and some regional holidays
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2017	1 September 2017
End of teachers' school year	21 June 2018	30 June 2018 (Saturday this year)

Additional notes

The official school year for both primary and secondary education lasts from 1 September 2017 until 31 August 2018. At **primary** level, the didactic year lasts from 1 September until 21 June of the following year (Presidential Decree 200/1998 and Presidential Decree 201/1998).
At **secondary** level, the didactic year lasts from 1 September until 30 June of the following year.

HUNGARY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/18

	Primary and lower secondary education	General upper secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2017	1 September 2017
End of students' school year	15 June 2018	15 June 2018
Autumn holidays	28 October – 5 November 2017	28 October – 5 November 2017
Christmas/New Year holidays	23 December 2017 – 2 January 2018	23 December 2017 – 2 January 2018
Spring/Easter holidays	29 March – 3 April 2018	29 March – 3 April 2018
Summer holidays	11 weeks 16 June – 31 August 2018	11 weeks 16 June – 31 August 2018
Public/religious holidays	23 October 2017 (Day of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956) 15 March 2018 (The Day of the Hungarian Revolution of 1848) 1 May 2018 (Labour Day) 21 May 2018 (Whit Monday)	23 October 2017 (Day of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956) 15 March 2018 (The Day of the Hungarian Revolution of 1848) 1 May 2018 (Labour Day) 21 May 2018 (Whit Monday)
Starting date of teachers' school year	Institutional autonomy takes into account the concerning legal provision*.	Institutional autonomy takes into account the concerning legal provision*.
End of teachers' school year	Institutional autonomy takes into account the concerning legal provision*.	Institutional autonomy takes into account the concerning legal provision*.

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes

According to the Act on Public Education, the minister responsible for education specifies the schedule of the school year in a ministerial decree. The Act stipulates that the school year starts on the first working day of September every year and finishes on the last working day prior to 16 June.

Thus schools have no autonomy in changing the first and last day of the school year but they have some autonomy in giving extra holidays before or after public holidays or school holidays for practical reasons (e.g. if a public holiday falls on a Thursday, the school may give Friday as holiday) if they provide teaching on a regular resting day (weekend) instead.

In addition to compulsory school days, schools also have five (in basic schools) or six (in upper-secondary schools) non-teaching days for educational purposes.

Holidays at schools providing minority education may differ from the above described school holidays to celebrate national traditions.

* Act No. CXC of 2011 Public Education Act, Act No. XXXIII of 1992 on the legal status of public servants and the Government Decree No. 326/2013 stipulate that the holidays of teachers primarily have to be given during the summer holiday. If not all days can be taken during that, the rest has to be provided during the autumn, winter or spring holidays or teaching days. (For teachers the autumn, winter and spring holidays are regarded as workdays without teaching).

ICELAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/18

	Primary and lower secondary education	General upper secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Between 21 and 24 August 2017	Between 22 and 27 August 2017
End of students' school year	Between 6 and 9 June 2018	Between 23 and 27 May 2018
Autumn holidays	2-3 days in October 2017	2-3 days in October 2017
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 21 December 2017 – 3 January 2018	2 weeks 21 December 2017 – 4 January 2018
Winter/Carnival	2-3 days in February 2018	2-3 days in February 2018
Spring/Easter	8 days 26 March – 2 April 2018	8 days 26 March – 2 April 2018
Summer	11 weeks Between 6-9 June and 21 August 2018	12 weeks Between 29 May and 23 August 2018
Public/religious holidays	29 March 2018 30 March 2018 2 April 2018 19 April 2018 1 May 2018 10 May 2018 21 May 2018	29 March 2018 30 March 2018 2 April 2018 19. April 2018 1 May 2018 10 May 2018 21 May 2018
Starting date of teachers' school year	Between 8 and 21 August 2017	Between 8 and 21 August 2017
End of teachers' school year	Between 5 and 11 June 2018	Between 5 and 11 June 2018

Additional notes

According to the Icelandic Teachers' Union collective agreement between The Association of Teachers in Primary and Lower Secondary Schools and Icelandic Association of Local Authorities, compulsory school teachers shall have 8 days accumulatively for preparation before the formal school year commences and after formal school year ends. Furthermore, teachers shall have 5 preparation days during the year. Upper secondary school teachers have a total of 4 working days before the beginning and/or the end of the school year. Total of school days for primary and lower secondary education are 180 per school year. For general upper secondary education, there should be 175 days in the period of 9 months plus 4 extra days outside regular 9 months period.

IRELAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2017/18 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	First week of September 2017 ⁽¹⁾	Circa 28 August 2017
End of students' school year	End of June 2018 ⁽²⁾	End of State Examinations in June 2018
Autumn holidays	1 week 30 October – 3 November 2017 (inclusive)	1 week 30 October – 3 November 2017 (inclusive)
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 25 December 2017 – 5 January 2018 (inclusive)	2 weeks 25 December 2017 – 5 January 2018 (inclusive)
Winter/Carnival	2 days 15-16 February 2018 ⁽³⁾	1 week 12-16 February 2018 (inclusive)
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 26 March – 6 April 2018 (inclusive)	2 weeks 26 March – 6 April 2018 (inclusive)
Summer	About 9 weeks End of June until week of 1 September 2018	About 12 weeks June, July and most of August 2018
Public/religious holidays	17 March 2018 19 March 2018 St Patrick's Day observed 7 May 2018 4 June 2018 and some religious holidays	17 March 2018 19 March 2018 St Patrick's Day observed 7 May 2018 4 June 2018 and some religious holidays
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2017	1 September 2017
End of teachers' school year	31 August 2018	31 August 2018

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes

Primary Education

- ⁽¹⁾ In order to meet the overall requirement of 183 days at primary level, the school year will normally commence during the week in which 1st September falls. The exact date is determined locally at Board of Management level.
- ⁽²⁾ School may use their own discretion to determine the precise ending of the school year in June, providing it has met the overall requirement of 183 days.
- ⁽³⁾ Primary school may use 3 discretionary days to extend their Winter/Carnival break to an alternative option of a 5 day break.

Circular 0009/2017 sets out the standardised school breaks at primary and post-primary level for the school years 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20.

IRELAND (CONTINUED)

The arrangements for standardised closure at primary level (Circular 0009/2017) are agreed without prejudice to closure on specific days, within the overall requirement of 183 days at primary level, dictated by religious observance that is required in schools under patronage of different denominations or faiths. In the absence of an adequate number of discretionary days a school authority may choose to utilise a religious observation day for non-tuition purpose when planning the school year.

The existing arrangements for school breaks may provide some limited flexibility to schools on certain other days outside of the defined periods. The scheduling of such days must not be used to extend or modify the period set out above in respect of mid-term, Christmas and Easter breaks save where a school has been affected by extensive or prolonged school closures or religious observance requirements of a school under a particular patronage makes this necessary.

It was not a requirement of this agreement that the commencement or end of the school year either at primary or post primary level should be standardised.

General Secondary

In accordance with Circular M29/95, the minimum number of teaching days per post-primary school will be 167. In addition, in accordance with Circular 0009/2017, holiday periods during the school year have been standardised, i.e. midterm breaks, Christmas and Easter holidays. Traditionally, formal instruction ends in post-primary schools on the Friday preceding the June bank holiday weekend. State examinations normally commence the following Wednesday. In order for schools to meet their requirement to be open for 167 days during 2017/18 school year, it is expected that post-primary schools will be open circa the 28 August 2017.

The above holidays are standardised in accordance with Circular 0009/2017. The school year at post-primary level is very tight and does not allow for any additional holidays, as schools must comply with the minimum number of 167 days. In fact, in recent years, since the standardised school calendar, many schools which would have traditionally opened on the 1st September are now opening in late August in order to meet their full complement of days. There is more flexibility at primary school level, as they are not restricted by the end of year State exams.

ITALY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/18

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Between 5 and 15 September 2017	Between 5 and 15 September 2017
End of students' school year	Between 7 and 16 June 2018	Between 7 and 16 June 2018
Autumn holidays	–	–
Christmas/New Year	10 to 15 days between 22-27 December 2017 and 6 January 2018	10 to 15 days between 22-27 December 2017 and 6 January 2018
Winter/Carnival	2-7 days in February	2-7 days in February
Spring/Easter	5 days between 29 March and 3 April 2018, for all regions	5 days between 29 March and 3 April 2018, for all regions
Third term	–	–
Summer	12-14 weeks between June and September 2018	12-14 weeks between June and September 2018
Public/religious holidays	1 November 2017 25 April 2018 1 May 2018 2 June 2018 (and Saints' days depending on the regions)	1 November 2017 25 April 2018 1 May 2018 2 June 2018 (and Saints' days depending on the regions)
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2017	1 September 2017
End of teachers' school year	31 August 2018	31 August 2018

Source: Eurydice.

ITALY (CONTINUED)

Specification of terms for the beginning and the end of the school year 2016/17		
Primary and general secondary education		
	Beginning 2017	End 2018
Abruzzo	11 September	7 June
Alto Adige (Bolzano)	5 September (5-day weeks) 5 September (6-day weeks)	16 June (5-day weeks) 16 June (6-day weeks)
Basilicata	11 September	12 June
Calabria	14 September	9 June
Campania	14 September	9 June
Emilia-Romagna	15 September	7 June
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	11 September	13 June
Lazio	15 September	8 June
Liguria	14 September	12 June
Lombardia	12 September	8 June
Marche	15 September	8 June
Molise	12 September	9 June
Piemonte	11 September	9 June
Puglia	15 September	12 June
Sardegna	14 September	9 June
Sicilia	14 September	9 June
Toscana	15 September	9 June
Trentino (Trento)	11 September	7 June
Umbria	13 September	9 June
Valle d'Aosta	14 September	9 June
Veneto	13 September	9 June

Additional notes

Schools can adjust the school calendar, established by the Regions, to the PTOF's requirements (the PTOF is the basic document of the cultural and planning identity of each school. It defines every three years the curricular, extra-curricular, educational and organisational projects of each school). Schools can organise in a flexible way the overall and single-subject timetable, provided that lessons spread over a minimum of five days per week and that the prescribed number of hours for the single subjects is complied with. The school year begins between the 2nd and the 4th week of September and finishes between the 1st and the 3rd week of June. The school adaptations of the school time should guarantee at least 200 days of lesson in the school year.

According to school autonomy, schools have up to 5 or 6 days available, which are foreseen for the suspension of educational activities.

LATVIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/18

	Integrated primary and lower secondary education	General upper secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2017	1 September 2017
End of students' school year	31 May 2018	31 May 2018
Autumn holidays	1 week 23-27 October 2017	1 week 23-27 October 2017
Winter holidays (Christmas/New Year)	2 weeks 25 December 2017 – 5 January 2018	2 weeks 25 December 2017 – 5 January 2018
Spring/Easter	1 week 12-16 March 2018	1 week 12-16 March 2018 19-23 March 2018 (for the 12th class)
Summer	13 weeks 1 June – 31 August 2018	13 weeks 1 June – 31 August 2018
Public/religious holidays	18 November 2017 (Proclamation of the Republic of Latvia) – holiday transferred to 20 November 30 March – 2 April 2018 (Easter) 1 May 2018 (Convocation of the Constituent Assembly of the Republic of Latvia; Labour Day) 4 May 2018 (Restoration of Independence of the Republic of Latvia)	18 November 2017 (Proclamation of the Republic of Latvia) – holiday transferred to 20 November 30 March – 2 April 2018 (Easter) 1 May 2018 (Convocation of the Constituent Assembly of the Republic of Latvia; Labour Day) 4 May 2018 (Restoration of Independence of the Republic of Latvia)
Starting date of teachers' school year	See Additional notes	See Additional notes
End of teachers' school year	See Additional notes	See Additional notes

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes

Single structure compulsory education (integrated primary and lower-secondary education (*pamatizglītība*)): end of the school year for the 9th class: 14 June 2018.

Upper secondary education: end of the school year for the 12th class: 21 June 2018.

The school year is divided in two semesters: the first from 1 September to 22 December 2017 and the second from 8 January to 31 May 2018 (or to 14 June for the 9th class and 21 June for the 12th class).

Education institutions decide when to carry out an additional 1 week long holidays in the second semester for the 1st class.

Education institutions decide when to carry out a 1 week long project week in the second semester.

Extension of the school year for classes 1-8 and 10-11 may be made if specific circumstances hindering education process arise during the school year (e.g. extreme temperature, strike, emergency situation in school, etc.).

Holidays (summer 2017): These are the dates for the official summer holiday period for classes 1-8 and 10-11.

Public holidays: When the specific holidays of 18 November (Proclamation of the Republic of Latvia) and 4 May (Restoration of Independence of the Republic of Latvia) fall on Saturday or Sunday, the holiday is transferred to the next working day.

Teachers: The teachers' school year concurs fully with students' year, but normally is longer and starts earlier, though the end and the start date is not defined officially. Teachers have the right to receive 8 weeks of paid annual leave in summer.

LIECHTENSTEIN

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/18

	Primary education and general secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	21 August 2017
End of students' school year	6 July 2018
Autumn holidays	2 weeks 7-22 October 2017
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 23 December 2017 – 7 January 2018
Winter/Carnival	1 week 10-18 February 2018
Spring/Easter	2.5 weeks 29 March – 15 April 2018
Summer	6 weeks 7 July – 19 August 2018
Public/religious holidays	8 September 2017 – Birth of the Blessed Virgin Marie (<i>Mariä Geburt</i>) 1 November 2017 – All Saints Day (<i>Allerheiligen</i>) 8 December 2017 – Feast of the Immaculate Conception (<i>Mariä Empfängnis</i>) 2 February 2018 – Candlemas (<i>Maria Lichtmess</i>) 19 March 2018 – St. Josephs Day (<i>Josefitag</i>) 1-2 April 2018 – Easter Sunday/Easter Monday (<i>Ostern/Ostermontag</i>) 1 May 2018 – Labour Day (<i>Tag der Arbeit</i>) 10-11 May 2018 – Ascension Day (<i>Auffahrt</i>) 20-21 June 2018 – Whitsuntide/Whit Monday (<i>Pfingsten/Pfingsmontag</i>) 31 May – 1 June 2018 – Corpus Christi (<i>Fronleichnam</i>)
Starting date of teachers' school year	21 August 2017
End of teachers' school year	6 July 2018

Source: Office of Education Liechtenstein.

Nation School Calendar: <http://www.llv.li/files/sa/schulamtskalender2017.pdf>

LITHUANIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/18

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2017	1 September 2017
End of students' school year	*	**
Autumn holidays	30 October – 3 November 2017	30 October – 3 November 2017
Christmas/New Year	27 December 2017 – 3 January 2018	27 December 2017 – 3 January 2018
Winter/Carnival	19-23 February 2018	19-23 February 2018
Spring/Easter	3-6 April 2018	3-6 April 2018
Summer	***	***
Public/religious holidays	1 November 2017 16 February 2018 11 March 2018 1 May 2018	1 November 2017 16 February 2018 11 March 2018 1 May 2018
Starting date of teachers' school year	Following the general teaching plans and subject to the agreement of the school head and teacher	Following the general teaching plans and subject to the agreement of the school head and teacher
End of teachers' school year	Following the general teaching plans and subject to the agreement of the school head and teacher****	Following the general teaching plans and subject to the agreement of the school head and teacher****

Source: General Teaching Plans of Primary Education Curricula for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019, No V-446, 2 June 2017. General Teaching Plans of Basic and Upper-Secondary Education Curricula for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019, No V-442, 2 June 2017.

Additional note

* The duration of the education process for primary education – 170 days of education.

** The duration of the education process for 5-10 grade students and for the I-III gymnasiums class – 181 days of education, for the pupils of the IV gymnasium class – 166 days of education.

*** The beginning of summer holidays is determined by the head of the school, in agreement with the school council and the owner of the institution. Summer holidays for students of IV gymnasiums class start after the end of the maturity exam session set by the Minister of Education and Science.

**** Since 1 July 2017, the new Labour Code was approved in Lithuania. According to it, the annual amount of leave for teachers is legislated as 40 work days. Normally, it is recommended that teachers take their annual leave during school summer holidays (i.e. teachers' leave is normally determined by the school calendar).

LUXEMBOURG

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/18

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	15 September 2017	15 September 2017
End of students' school year	13 July 2018	13 July 2018
Autumn holidays	1 week 28 October – 5 November 2017	1 week 28 October – 5 November 2017
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 16 December 2017 – 1 January 2018	2 weeks 16 December 2017 – 1 January 2018
Winter/Carnival	1 week 10-18 February 2018	1 week 10-18 February 2018
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 31 March – 15 April 2018	2 weeks 31 March – 15 April 2018
Third term	1 week 19-27 May 2018	1 week 19-27 May 2018
Summer	8 weeks 14 July – 16 September 2018	8 weeks 14 July – 16 September 2018
Public/religious holidays	1 November 2017 (All Saints' Day) 1 May 2018 (Labour Day) 10 May 2018 (Whit Monday) 25 May 2018 (Ascension Day) 23 June 2018 (National Holiday)	1 November 2017 (All Saints' Day) 1 May 2018 (Labour Day) 10 May 2018 (Whit Monday) 25 May 2018 (Ascension Day) 23 June 2018 (National Holiday)
Starting date of teachers' school year	15 September 2017	15 September 2017
End of teachers' school year	13 July 2018	13 July 2018

Total number of school days from 15 September to 13 July: 178 days (weekends not included)

Total number of holidays from 15 September to 13 July: 60 days (the summer break not included)

MALTA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/18

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	25 September 2017	25 September 2017
End of students' school year	28 June 2018	28 June 2018
Autumn holidays	1-3 November 2017	1-3 November 2017
Christmas / New Year	25 December 2017 – 5 January 2018	25 December 2017 – 5 January 2018
Winter / Carnival	12-13 February 2018	12-13 February 2018
Spring / Easter	28 March – 4 April 2018	28 March – 4 April 2018
Third term	5 April – 28 June 2018	5 April – 28 June 2018
Summer	29 June – 23 September 2018	29 June – 23 September 2018
Public / religious holidays	8 December 2017 13 December 2017 19 March 2018 1 May 2018 7 June 2018 29 June 2018	8 December 2017 13 December 2017 19 March 2018 1 May 2018 7 June 2018 29 June 2018
Starting date of teachers' school year	20 September 2017	20 September 2017
End of teachers' school year	6 July 2018	6 July 2018

Additional notes

Half-yearly examinations take place between 5 and 8 February 2018 for pupils in the last three years of primary school and between 7 and 23 February 2018 for secondary school students.

The Annual Examinations take place between 25 and 28 June 2018 for primary school pupils and between the 12 and 28 June 2018 for secondary school students.

Year 6 students in primary schools sit for the End-of-Primary Benchmark Assessments held between the 28 and 31 May 2018.

Teachers are required to attend in-service training (INSET) for three days either prior to the beginning of the school year or immediately at the end of the school year. This training is held on 15, 18 and 19 September 2017 and on the 9, 10 and 11 July 2018.

Teachers who attend INSET courses in September 2017 start their school year on 15 September 2017. Teachers who attend INSET courses in July 2018 end their school year on 11 July 2018.

During the month of June schools are on half-days.

Total number of school days in the primary and general secondary education including exam days is 173 days and total number of holidays is 27 days.

MONTENEGRO

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/18

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	4 September 2017	4 September 2017
End of students' school year	13 June 2018 18 May 2018 (in the final year)	13 June 2018 18 May 2018 (in the final year)
Christmas/New Year/Winter	25-27 December 2017 1-2 January 2018 7-9 January 2018	25-27 December 2017 1-2 January 2018 7-9 January 2018
Winter/Carnival	30 December 2017 – 21 January 2018	30 December 2017 – 21 January 2018
Summer	14 June – 3 September 2018 19 May – 3 September 2018 for students of the final grade	14 June – 3 September 2018 19 May 2018 for students of the final grade Note: for the students in vocational education who have professional internship (10-15 days), the summer vacation begins after the end of the internship.
Public holidays (national/religious/occasional)	1-2 January 2018 (New Year's Day) 1-2 May 2018 (International Labour Day) 21-22 May 2018 (Independence Day) 13 July 2018 (Statehood Day)	1-2 January 2018 (New Year's Day) 1-2 May 2018 (International Labour Day) 21-22 May 2018 (Independence Day) 13 July 2018 (Statehood Day)
Starting date of teachers' school year	10 August 2017	10 August 2017
End of teachers' school year	6 July 2018	6 July 2018

Additional notes

Total number of teaching days for students of primary and secondary school is 182, while for the final year students of primary and secondary school total number of teaching days is 166.

In accordance with **Law on National and Other Holidays** (Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro, no 27/2007 and Official Gazette of Montenegro, no 36/2013), national holidays in Montenegro include: 21 May– Independence Day and 13 July – Statehood Day.

Holidays in Montenegro are also: 1 January – New Year and 1 May – Labour Day.

National and other holidays are celebrated for two days, on the day of the holiday and the day that follows.

Holidays are non-working days.

If a holiday falls on Sunday, the following two days are non-working days.

If the second day of the holiday falls on Sunday, the following first day is a non-working day.

Religious holidays are non-working days.

Source: Eurydice.

THE NETHERLANDS

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/2018

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Northern region: 4 September 2017 Central region: 21 August 2017 Southern region: 28 August 2017	Northern region: 4 September 2017 Central region: 21 August 2017 Southern region: 28 August 2017
End of students' school year	Northern region: 20 July 2018 Central region: 13 July 2018 Southern region: 6 July 2018	Northern region: 20 July 2018 Central region: 13 July 2018 Southern region: 6 July 2018
Autumn holidays*	Northern region: 21-29 October 2017 Central region: 14-22 October 2017 Southern region: 14-22 October 2017	Northern region: 21-29 October 2017 Central region: 14-22 October 2017 Southern region: 14-22 October 2017
Christmas/New Year holidays	23 December 2017 to 7 January 2018	23 December 2017 to 7 January 2018
Winter/Carnival* (Spring Holiday or Crocus Holiday)	Northern region: 24 February to 4 March 2018 Central region: 24 February to 4 March 2018 Southern region: 17-25 February 2018	Northern region: 24 February to 4 March 2018 Central region: 24 February to 4 March 2018 Southern region: 17-25 February 2018
Spring/Easter* (May Holiday)	28 April – 6 May 2018	28 April – 6 May 2018
Summer	Northern region: 21 July – 2 September 2018 Central region: 14 July – 26 August 2018 Southern region: 7 July – 19 August 2018	Northern region: 21 July – 2 September 2018 Central region: 14 July – 26 August 2018 Southern region: 7 July – 19 August 2018
Public holidays (national/religious/occasional)	2 April 2018 (Easter Monday) 27 April 2018 (King's Birthday) 5 May 2018 (Liberation day) 10 May 2018 (Ascension Day) 21 May 2018 (Whit Monday)	2 April 2018 (Easter Monday) 27 April 2018 (King's Birthday) 5 May 2018 (Liberation day) 10 May 2018 (Ascension Day) 21 May 2018 (Whit Monday)
Starting date of teachers' school year	See Additional notes	See Additional notes
End of teachers' school year	See Additional notes	See Additional notes

THE NETHERLANDS (CONTINUED)

Additional notes

The school year officially runs from 1 August to 31 July of the following year. The start and end of the school year of the individual schools is according to the region (Northern, Central and Southern region).

Dates for the **summer holidays** are decided by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science; the holiday period is staggered over 3 regions (compulsory dates for all schools); also dates for **Christmas holidays** and **May holidays (one week)** are decided by the Ministry; other holidays are recommended by the Ministry. The dates of the autumn and spring holidays are decided by the competent authority of the school (school board), although the Ministry does publish advisory dates.

A balanced distribution of teaching time is important in the Netherlands. Schools have the opportunity to deviate from the recommended data, but they have to take into account the wishes and expectations of the parents/caregivers. The Primary Education Act requires schools to provide at least 7 520 teaching hours over the eight years that children attend school.

- In the Netherlands Carnival holiday is called Spring Holiday or Crocus Holiday
- If the recommended period for the Spring Holiday does not fit with Carnival week; it can be expected that schools, especially in the Southern areas of the Netherlands, will not follow the recommendations and will close for Carnival.

The **teachers'** school year is similar to the students' school year. However, it is at the school's discretion to decide whether teachers are expected to end or start later (in order to attend meetings, for preparation of timetable, other non-teaching activities etc.)

School days 2017/2018

The Primary Education Act requires schools to provide at least 7 520 teaching hours over the eight years that children attend school. That's an average of 940 hours per year. It is not really possible to provide a number of school days, because schools are free to decide this (but they have to meet the 7 520 teaching hours over eight years). There are differences between schools, it is up to the schools autonomy.

For secondary education the amount of teaching hours is as follows:

- 3700 hours for VMBO (over 4 years)
- 4700 hours for HAVO (over 5 years)
- 5700 hours for VWO (over 6 years)

Schools can choose how they organize their curriculum. As long as each student has the opportunity to follow a program that meets the statutory hours norm. And as long as students receive at least 189 days a year teaching (schooldays).

Holidays 2017/2018

Secondary education: Per school year there is a maximum of up to 71 free days of school: 55 holidays, 4 public holidays and 12 rostered days off.

So there is also a lot of autonomy for schools.

NORWAY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/18

	Primary education See additional note 1	General secondary education See additional note 1
Starting date of students' school year	Between 21 and 23 August 2017	Between 21 and 23 August 2017
End of students' school year	Between 19 and 23 June 2018	Between 19 and 23 June 2018
Autumn holidays	1 week (some only 2-3 days) between 25 September – 13 October 2017 (week 40, 41 or 42)	1 week (some only 2-3 days) between 25 September – 13 October 2017 (week 40, 41 or 42)
Christmas/New Year	Around 2 weeks between 22 December 2017 until 1-3 January 2018.	Around 2 weeks between 22 December 2017 until 1-3 January 2018
Winter/Carnival	1 week between 12 February and 2 March 2018 (Week 7, 8 or 9)	1 week between 12 February and 2 March 2018 (Week 7, 8 or 9)
Spring/Easter	Between 26 March – 2 April 2018	Between 26 March – 2 April 2018
Third term	–	–
Summer	Around 8 weeks Starts between 18-22 June until 20-22 August 2018	Around 8 weeks Starts between 18-22 June until 20-22 August 2018
Public/religious holidays	1 May 2018 (Labour Day) 17 May 2018 (National Day) 10 May 2018 (Ascension Day) 21 May 2018 (Whit Monday)	1 May 2018 (Labour Day) 17 May 2018 (National Day) 10 May 2018 (Ascension Day) 21 May 2018 (Whit Monday)
Starting date of teachers' school year	See Additional note 2.	See Additional note 2.
End of teachers' school year	See Additional note 2.	See Additional note 2.

Source: <http://www.ks.no/globalassets/blokker-til-hvert-fagomrade/arbeidsgiver/tariff-lov--og-avtaleverk/b-rundskriv-9-2014---undervisningspersonalet---arbeidstid-og-diverse-bestemmelser.pdf> and <https://www.timeanddate.no/kalender/skolerute2017-2018>

Additional notes

Note 1: According to The Education Act § 2.2 (primary and lower secondary schools) and 2.3 (upper secondary schools): The municipality/county issues regulations concerning school days and holidays for the pupils during the school year. These regulations shall be adapted to national tests and examinations.

The time allocated to teaching in school shall not be less than 38 school weeks within a framework of 45 consecutive weeks and 190 days (most common) during the school year.

Note 2: The teachers' working hours are 1 300 hours for primary education (ISCED 1), 1 225 hours for lower secondary education (ISCED 2) and 1 150 hours for upper secondary education (ISCED 3). The teachers must work minimum 6 days more than the pupil's school year, for planning, evaluation, competence development, cooperation with colleagues, e.g.

Teacher working time is negotiated between teacher organisations and the organisation of local government (KS.no) and is described in a common agreement <http://www.ks.no/globalassets/blokker-til-hvert-fagomrade/arbeidsgiver/tariff-lov--og-avtaleverk/b-rundskriv-9-2014---undervisningspersonalet---arbeidstid-og-diverse-bestemmelser.pdf>

POLAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/18

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	4 September 2017	4 September 2017
End of students' school year	22 June 2018	22 June 2018
Autumn holidays	–	–
Christmas/New Year	25-31 December 2017	25-31 December 2017
Winter	<p>2 weeks as specified for the following regions:</p> <p>15-28 January 2018 dolnośląskie mazowieckie opolskie zachodniopomorskie</p> <p>22 January – 4 February 2018 podlaskie warmińsko-mazurskie</p> <p>29 January – 11 February 2018 lubelskie łódzkie podkarpackie pomorskie śląskie</p> <p>12-25 February 2018 kujawsko-pomorskie lubuskie małopolskie świętokrzyskie wielkopolskie</p>	<p>2 weeks as specified for the following regions:</p> <p>15-28 January 2018 dolnośląskie mazowieckie opolskie zachodniopomorskie</p> <p>22 January – 4 February 2018 podlaskie warmińsko-mazurskie</p> <p>29 January – 11 February 2018 lubelskie łódzkie podkarpackie pomorskie śląskie</p> <p>12-25 February 2018 kujawsko-pomorskie lubuskie małopolskie świętokrzyskie wielkopolskie</p>
Spring/Easter	29 March – 3 April 2018	29 March – 3 April 2018
Third term	–	–
Summer	23 June – 31 August 2018	23 June – 31 August 2018
Public/religious holidays	<p>1 November 2017</p> <p>1 January 2018</p> <p>1,3 May 2018</p> <p>31 May 2018</p>	<p>1 November 2017</p> <p>1 January 2018</p> <p>1,3 May 2018</p> <p>31 May 2018</p>
Starting date of teachers' school year	4 September 2017	4 September 2017
End of teachers' school year	22 June 2018	22 June 2018

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes

In addition, the school head has the possibility to determine some extra days off that may be devoted to external tests and exams and/or religious festivals not being registered as official public holidays.

PORTUGAL

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/18 year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Between 8 and 13 September 2017	Between 8 and 13 September 2017
End of students' school year*	15 June 2018 – grades 5 and 6 22 June 2018 – grades 1 to 4	6 June 2018 – grades 9, 11 and 12 15 June 2018 – grades 7, 8 and 10
First term	8/13 September– 15 December 2017	8/13 September – 15 December 2017
Christmas/New Year	18 December 2017 to 2 January 2018	18 December 2017 to 2 January 2018
Second term	3 January – 23 March 2018	3 January – 23 March 2018
Winter/Carnival	12 to 14 February 2018	12 to 14 February 2018
Spring/Easter	26 March to 6 April 2018	26 March to 6 April 2018
Third term*	9 April 2018 15 June 2018 for grades 5 and 6 22 June 2018 for grades 1 to 4	9 April 2018 6 June 2018 for grades 9, 11 and 12 15 June 2018 for grades 7, 8 and 10
Summer*	About 11-12 weeks	About 12-13 weeks
Public/religious holidays	5 October 2017 1 November 2017 1 December 2017 8 December 2017 25 April 2018 1 May 2018 31 May 2018 10 June 2018	5 October 2017 1 November 2017 1 December 2017 8 December 2017 25 April 2018 1 May 2018 31 May 2018 10 June 2018
Starting date of teachers' school year**	See Additional notes	See Additional notes
End of teachers' school year**	See Additional notes	See Additional notes

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes

The total number of instruction days varies between 175 and 180 days.

* National exams occur until the end of July.

** The official teachers' school year lasts from 1 September to 31 August. Teachers have the right to take summer holidays between the end of pupils' school year and the beginning of the following school year.

ROMANIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/18

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	11 September 2017	11 September 2017
End of students' school year	15 June 2018	15 June 2018
Autumn holidays	28 October – 5 November 2017	–
Christmas/New Year	23 December 2017 – 14 January 2018	23 December 2017 – 14 January 2018
Winter/Carnival	3-11 February 2018	3-11 February 2018
Spring/Easter	31 Mars – 10 April 2018	31 Mars – 10 April 2018
Summer	16 June – 9 September 2018	16 June – 9 September 2018
Public/religious holidays	30 November 2017 1 December 2017 24 January 2018 9 April 2018 1 May 2018 28 May 2018	30 November 2017 1 December 2017 24 January 2018 9 April 2018 1 May 2018 28 May 2018
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2017	1 September 2017
End of teachers' school year	31 August 2018	31 August 2018

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes

1. The schools and the School Inspectorates will mark with specific events the following days:

- 5 October 2017 = World Teachers' Day
- 5 June 2018 = Primary Teacher's Day
- 1 June 2018 = International Children's Day

2. One week (5 consecutive working days) is dedicated to extracurricular and extra-school activities, within the National Programme *Other kind of school: Know more, Be better!* [*Școala altfel: Să știi mai multe, să fii mai bun!*], with a specific timetable.

3. In exceptional situations, depending on the local climatic conditions and school's specificity, the organisation of the school year can be modified at the request of schools, approved by the regional education authorities (County School Inspectorate). Approval is given if the number of 167 school days (35 weeks) is maintained and all pupils may participate without restrictions in national examinations.

SERBIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/18

	Primary and lower secondary education (Primary school)	Upper secondary education (Secondary school)
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2017	
End of students' school year	Final (8th) grade: 31 May 2018 Other grades: 14 June 2018	Final (4th) grade in grammar schools: 24 May 2018 Final (3rd or 4th) grade in vocational secondary schools: 31 May 2018 Other grades: 21 June 2018
Autumn holidays	9 and 10 November 2017	
Christmas/New Year	3-8 January 2018	
Winter/Carnival	1-9 February 2018	
Spring/Easter	2-9 April 2018	
Summer	15 June – 31 August 2018	22 June – 31 August 2018
Public/religious holidays	<p>21 October 2017 – public (working) holiday (falls on Saturday) 11 November 2017 – national holiday (falls on Saturday) 1-2 January 2018 – New Year holiday 7 January 2018 – religious holiday (Christmas for Orthodox Christians – falls on Sunday) 27 January 2018 – religious (working) holiday (St Sava's Day / all schools Saint patron's day, falls on Saturday) 15-16 February 2018 – national holiday 6-9 April 2018 – religious holiday (Easter for Orthodox Christians) 1-2 May 2018 – national holiday 22 April 2018 – public (working) holiday (falls on Sunday) 9 May 2018 – public (working) holiday 28 June 2018 – public (working) holiday</p> <p>Note <i>In addition to the religious holidays mentioned above which are related to the majority Orthodox Christians religious community, the members of other large religious communities in the country are entitled to have non-working days for their most important religious holidays:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Islam religious community – 1 September 2017 (Curban Bayrami) and 14 June 2018 (Ramadan) • Jewish religious community – 30 September 2017 (Yom Kippur) • Catholic and Protestant religious community – 25 December 2017 (Christmas) and 30 March to 2 April 2018 (Easter) <p><i>Orthodox Christians are also entitled to one day off for the saint patron's day (so called Slava).</i></p>	
Starting date of teachers' school year	Exact starting date of teachers' school year is determined at institutional (school) level. As required at central level, teachers have vacation days as any other employees (minimum is 20 days per year for teachers entering the profession), which they have to use during the school holidays. Teachers usually start the school year a couple of weeks before students (mid-August).	
End of teachers' school year	Exact end date of teachers' school year is determined at institutional (school) level. As required at central level, teachers have vacation days as any other employees (minimum is 20 days per year for teachers entering the profession), which they have to use during the school holidays. Teachers usually end the school year several weeks after students (mid-July).	

Source: Eurydice.

SERBIA (CONTINUED)

Additional notes

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia issues the Regulations on school calendar for primary and secondary education each year for the forthcoming school year.

<http://www.mpn.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Pravilnik-OS-16.-jun.pdf>

<http://www.mpn.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Tabelarni-pregled-kalendar-a-za-OS-16.-jun.pdf>

<http://www.mpn.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Pravilnik-SS-16.-jun.pdf>

<http://www.mpn.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Tabelarni-pregled-kalendar-a-za-SS-za-RS-1718-16-06-17.pdf>

Final grade students in both primary and secondary education finish the school year earlier in order to prepare for final and entrance exams.

In primary education, the school calendar for 2017/18 school year for grades 1st to 7th have the total of 36 working weeks (180 school working days). School calendar for the 8th (final) grade is comprised of 34 working weeks (170 school working days).

In general secondary education, there are 37 working weeks (185 school working days) in grades 1st to 3rd, and 33 working weeks (165 school working days) in the final (4th) grade. In vocational secondary education, the calendar for all grades except the final is comprised of 37 working weeks (185 school working days), while the final grade's calendar (3rd or 4th) consists of 34 working weeks (170 school working days).

Holidays can be national (which are always non-working), public and religious (working or non-working). All in all, according to the school calendar, there are 10 holidays. In addition, both students and education staff who belong to different religious communities are allowed to be absent from school during religious holidays specific for their community (enumerated above).

SLOVAKIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/18

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	4 September 2017	4 September 2017
End of students' school year	29 June 2018	29 June 2018
Autumn holidays	2 days 30-31 October 2017	2 days 30-31 October 2017
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 23 December 2017 – 5 January 2018	2 weeks 23 December 2017 – 5 January 2018
Winter/Carnival	1 week according to regions: 19-23 February 2018 Banska Bystrica, Žilina, Trenčín 26 February – 2 March 2018 Košice, Prešov 5-9 March 2018 Bratislava, Nitra, Trnava	1 week according to regions: 19-23 February 2018 Banska Bystrica, Žilina, Trenčín 26 February – 2 March 2018 Košice, Prešov 5-9 March 2018 Bratislava, Nitre, Trnava
Spring/Easter	4 days (Easter holidays) 29 March – 3 April 2018	4 days (Easter holidays) 29 March – 3 April 2018
Summer	9 weeks 2 July – 31 August 2018	9 weeks 2 July – 31 August 2018
Public/religious holidays	1 September 2017 15 September 2017 1 November 2017 17 November 2017 1 May 2018 8 May 2018	1 September 2017 15 September 2017 1 November 2017 17 November 2017 1 May 2018 8 May 2018
Starting date of teachers' school year	Usually one week before the beginning of the school year	Usually one week before the beginning of the school year
End of teachers' school year	Usually, one week after summer holidays begin	Usually, one week after summer holidays begin

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes

Official school year lasts from 1 September to 31 August. If 2 September falls on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday starting date of school year is next Monday.

Total number of school/academic days: 188 days

Total number of holidays : 67 days

According to the Labour Code, teachers and school heads at primary and secondary levels have 8 weeks of holidays per calendar year. They take it during the holidays. Usually, teachers work one week after beginning of summer holidays and one week before the beginning of the school year.

SLOVENIA

Organisation of school time in single structure education and general upper secondary education – 2017/18

	Single structure education	General upper secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2017	1 September 2017
End of students' school year	22 June 2018 15 June 2018 (final grade)	22 June 2018 18 May 2018 (final grade)
Autumn holidays	1 week 30 October – 5 November 2017	1 week 30 October – 5 November 2017
Christmas/New Year	1 week 25 December 2017 – 2 January 2018	1 week 25 December 2017 – 2 January 2018
Prešeren Day – Slovenian Cultural Holiday	8 February 2018	8 February 2018
Winter/Carnival	1 week 19-25 February 2018 (Western region) 26 February – 4 March 2018 (Eastern region)	1 week 19-25 February 2018 (Western region) 26 February – 4 March 2018 (Eastern region)
Spring holidays	1 week 27 April – 2 May 2018	1 week 27 April – 2 May 2018
Summer holidays	10 weeks 25 June – 31 August 2018	10 weeks 25 June – 31 August 2018
Public/religious holidays	2 April 2018 (Easter Monday)	2 April 2018 (Easter Monday)
Starting date of teachers' school year	10-15 days before students start school	10-15 days before students start school
End of teachers' school year	Beginning to mid-July 2018	Beginning to mid-July 2018

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes

Slovenia has a single structure compulsory school of nine years.

For pupils and upper-secondary students, the school year officially begins on 1 September and ends on 31 August, however, the lessons end in June.

For teachers, the school year begins 10 to 15 days before the students start school, i.e. mid-August and ends in the beginning or mid-July. The exact duration depends on the days of annual leave allocated to an individual (22 to 35 days) and tasks and obligations appointed by the school head.

SPAIN

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/18 ^(1,2)

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Between 5 and 13 September 2017	Between 7 and 19 September 2017
End of students' school year	Between 20 and 27 June 2018	Between 19 and 28 June ⁽³⁾ 2018
Christmas/New Year	At least 2 weeks between 23 December 2017 and 7 January 2018	At least 2 weeks between 23 December 2017 and 7 January 2018
Winter/Carnival	Between 2 and 3 days (depending on the Autonomous Community) ⁽⁴⁾	Between 2 and 3 days (depending on the Autonomous Community) ⁽⁴⁾
Spring/Easter	About 10 days in the period between the fourth week of March and the first week of April 2018	About 10 days in the period between the fourth week of March and the first week of April 2018
Summer	11 weeks between late June and mid-September	11 weeks between late June and mid-September
Public/religious holidays	About 12 public holidays (some common throughout the country and some specific of the different Autonomous Communities).	About 12 public holidays (some common throughout the country and some specific of the different Autonomous Communities).
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2017	1 September 2017
End of teachers' school year	29 June 2018	29 June 2018 ⁽⁵⁾

Additional notes

⁽¹⁾ Dates vary according to the different Autonomous Communities, see the table below.

Total number: ⁽²⁾ The total minimum number of school days is 178 in primary and 175 in general secondary education in all Autonomous Communities, although there are some additional days in several Communities.

⁽³⁾ In the last year of post-compulsory upper general secondary education, classes finish two, three or four weeks earlier than in other stages. This time is meant for preparing entrance examinations to universities and the final evaluation of *Bachillerato*, among others.

Total number: ⁽⁴⁾ The Autonomous Communities of Asturias, Castilla y León and Extremadura will allocate two days for Carnival. In the case of Galicia it will be three days.

⁽⁵⁾ The management team of schools must stay in the school until 31 July.

SPAIN (CONTINUED)

Specification of terms for the starting and the end of students' school year 2017/18 in the different Autonomous Communities

	Primary education		General secondary education ⁽¹⁾	
	Beginning (2017)	End (2018)	Beginning (2017)	End (2018)
Andalucía	11 September	22 June	15 September	25 June
Aragón	7 September	20 June	12 September	22 June
Asturias	11 September	21 June	13 September	25 June
Baleares	13 September	22 June	13 September	22 June
Canarias	11 September	22 June	13 September	22 June
Cantabria ⁽⁶⁾	7 September	22 June	12 September ⁽²⁾	26 June
Castilla y León	11 September	22 June	18 September	22 June
Castilla-La Mancha	11 September	21 June	14 September	26 June
Cataluña	12 September	22 June	12 September ⁽²⁾	22 June
Ceuta	11 September	22 June	11 September	22 June
Extremadura	13 September	21 June	13 September ⁽²⁾	21 June ⁽²⁾
Galicia	11 September	21 June	15 September	21 June
La Rioja	7 September	21 June	8 September ⁽⁵⁾	22 June
Madrid	8 September	22 June	12 y 13 September ⁽²⁾ ⁽⁵⁾	22 June
Melilla	11 September	22 June	11 September	22 June
Región de Murcia ⁽³⁾	Between 5 and 11 September	Between 22 and 27 June	Between 12 and 19 September	Between 19 and 25 June
Navarra ⁽⁴⁾	Not before 7 September	No later than 20 June	Not before 9 September	No later than 16 June
País Vasco ⁽⁴⁾	7 September	22 June	7 September ⁽⁵⁾	20 June
C. Valencia	11 September	22 June	11 September	20 June

Additional notes

⁽¹⁾ In the last year of post-compulsory upper general secondary education, classes end up two, three or four weeks earlier than in the rest of stages. This time is used to prepare the university admission examinations (and final evaluation of *Bachillerato*, among others).

⁽²⁾

- Cataluña: in lower and upper general secondary education, the beginning may be delayed until 14 September.
- Extremadura: in upper general secondary education, the beginning is 14 September. As for the end date of the second and last grade in upper secondary education, the deadline date will be determined using a circular.
- Madrid: 1st grade of general secondary education begins on 12 September while the rest of grades begin on 13 September.
- Cantabria: in upper general secondary education, the beginning is 14 September and the end date will be 29 June 2018.

⁽³⁾ In the Autonomous Community of Región de Murcia: the beginning and end periods vary according to municipalities. Consequently, there is a range of days for such municipalities to establish their own starting and end dates of the school year in the different levels of education.

⁽⁴⁾ Autonomous Communities of Navarra and País Vasco: schools are free to establish their own calendar taking into account the limit starting and ending dates established by the educational authorities.

⁽⁵⁾ Autonomous Communities of Madrid, La Rioja and País Vasco: introduce a change in the school calendar for the academic year 2017/18 with respect to previous years, namely, the extraordinary exams for general lower and upper secondary education as well as for vocational training students, which used to be held in the month of September, will take place at the end of June from the next academic year onwards. In Madrid, the extraordinary exams will be held during the last three school days of June. As for País Vasco, they will take place between the last school day and 29 June.

⁽⁶⁾ Autonomous Community of Cantabria: the organization and distribution of the school holidays is somehow different from that of the rest of regional administrations:

- Summer holidays.
- Public holidays: 12 October, 6 to 8 December, 29 January.
- Holiday periods:
 - 1 week from 30 October
 - 2 weeks from 25 December
 - 22 to 27 February
 - 1 week from 30 April.

Source: School calendars of the Autonomous Communities and the Cities of Ceuta and Melilla.

SWEDEN

Organisation of school time in compulsory education (*grundskola*) and in general upper secondary education (*gymnasieskola*) – 2017/18

	Single structure compulsory education (<i>grundskola</i>)	General upper secondary education (<i>gymnasieskola</i>)
Starting date of students' school year	Late in August	Late in August
End of students' school year	Mid-June	Mid-June
According to the School Ordinance and the Upper Secondary School Ordinance, a school year consists of at least 178 school days and at least 12 holidays – the exact dates vary on regional and municipality level. In addition to the school days and the holidays, schools are able to conduct five in-service training days (at most) for the staff.		
Autumn holidays	30 October – 3 November 2017	30 October – 3 November 2017
Christmas/New Year	Start between 19-22 December 2017 End between 8-10 January 2018	Start between 19-22 December 2017 End between 8-10 January 2018
Winter/Carnival	1 week between 12 February – 9 March 2018	1 week between 12 February – 9 March 2018
Spring/Easter	1 week between 26 March – 6 April 2018	1 week between 26 March – 6 April 2018
Summer	About 10 weeks	About 10 weeks
Public/religious holidays	30 March 2018 (Good Friday) 2 April 2018 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2018 (Labour Day) 10 May 2018 (Ascension Day) 6 June 2018 (National Day)	30 March 2018 (Good Friday) 2 April 2018 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2018 (Labour Day) 10 May 2018 (Ascension Day) 6 June 2018 (National Day)
Starting date of teachers' school year	Mid-August	Mid-August
End of teachers' school year	Mid-June	Mid-June

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes

Sweden has a single structure compulsory school (9 years) with no differences between stages. Starting and finishing dates vary on regional and municipality levels, dates here are indicative.

Teachers usually start their work earlier for planning etc. Continuous professional development (CPD) is the responsibility of the employer and it can take place when the pupils are in school or not.

SWITZERLAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/18

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Staggered between 14 and 27 August 2017	Staggered between 14 and 27 August 2017
End of students' school year	Staggered between 15 June and 20 July 2018	Staggered between 15 June and 20 July 2018
Autumn holidays	Between 1 and 3 weeks staggered between 23 September and 5 November 2017	Between 1 and 3 weeks staggered between 23 September and 5 November 2017
Christmas/New Year	Between 1 and 2.5 weeks staggered between 21 December 2017 and 7 January 2018	Between 1 and 2.5 weeks staggered between 21 December 2017 and 7 January 2018
Winter/Carnival	Between 1 and 2 weeks staggered between 27 January and 11 March 2018	Between 1 and 2 weeks staggered between 27 January and 11 March 2018
Spring/Easter	Between 1 and 3 weeks staggered between 24 March and 21 May 2018	Between 1 and 2 weeks staggered between 24 March and 13 May 2018
Third term	–	–
Summer	Between 5 and 11 weeks staggered between 16 June and 2 September 2018	Between 5 and 11 weeks staggered between 16 June and 2 September 2018
Public/religious holidays	10 May 2018 (Ascension Day) 21 May 2018 (Whit Monday)	10 May 2018 (Ascension Day) 21 May 2018 (Whit Monday)
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 August 2017	1 August 2017
End of teachers' school year	31 July 2018	31 July 2018

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes

According to Switzerland's federal structure, the starting date/end of students' school year (for details see table I) and school holidays vary between cantons, in some cantons even between municipalities (for details see table II).

With a few exceptions the teachers' official school year starts 1st August and ends on 31 July. However, it is at the school's discretion to decide whether teachers are expected to start or end later (in order to attend meetings, to prepare for teaching, etc.).

The only national holiday is 1st August (National Day). All other public and religious holidays are fixed by the cantons. New Year's Day, Ascension and Christmas Day are the only holidays all cantons have in common. In most cantons Good Friday, Easter Monday, Whit Monday and Boxing Day are also official holidays.

SWITZERLAND (CONTINUED)

TABLE I: Specification for starting/end of students' school year and summer holidays

Canton	Beginning of students' school year 2017/18	End of students' school year 2017/18	Summer holidays 2018
Aargau	14 August 2017	20 July 2018	21 July – 12 August
Appenzell Innerrhoden*	14 August 2017	29 June 2018	30 June – 12 August
Appenzell Ausserrhoden	14 August 2017	6 July 2018	7 July – 12 August
Bern*	14 August 2017	6 July 2018	7 July – 12 August
Basel-Landschaft	14 August 2017	29 June 2018	30 June – 12 August
Basel-Stadt	14 August 2017	29 June 2018	30 June – 12 August
Fribourg*	23 August 2017	6 July 2018	7 July – 22 August
Geneva	28 August 2017	29 June 2018	30 June – 26 August
Glarus	14 August 2017	29 June 2018	30 June – 12 August
Graubünden*	21 August 2017	29 June 2018	30 June – 12 August
Jura	21 August 2017	6 July 2018	7 July – 19 August
Lucerne*	21 August 2017	6 July 2018	7 July – 19 August
Neuchâtel	14 August 2017	6 July 2018	7 July – 19 August
Nidwalden*	21 August 2017	6 July 2018	7 July – 19 August
Obwalden*	21 August 2017	6 July 2018	7 July – 19 August
St. Gallen	14 August 2017	6 July 2018	7 July – 12 August
Schaffhausen	14 August 2017	6 July 2018	7 July – 12 August
Solothurn	16 August 2017	6 July 2018	7 July – 12 August
Schwyz*	21 August 2017	6 July 2018	7 July – 19 August
Thurgau	14 August 2017	6 July 2018	7 July – 12 August
Ticino	28 August 2017	15 June 2018	16 June – 2 September
Uri*	21 August 2017	6 July 2018	7 July – 19 August
Vaud	21 August 2017	6 July 2018	7 July – 26 August
Valais*	16 August 2017	22 June 2018	23 June – 19 August
Zug	21 August 2017	6 July 2018	7 July – 19 August
Zurich*	21 August 2017	13 July 2018	14 July – 19 August

* with variation between regions/municipalities

SWITZERLAND (CONTINUED)

TABLE II: Specification of shorter holiday periods

Canton	Autumn 2017	Christmas / New Year 2017/18	Winter 2018	Spring / Easter 2018
Aargau*	30 Sept. – 15 Oct.	23 Dec. – 7 Jan.	variable	7-22 April
Appenzell Innerrhoden*	7-22 Oct.	23 Dec. – 7 Jan.	9-18 Feb.	7-22 April
Appenzell Ausserrhoden*	30 Sept. – 22 Oct	23 Dec. – 3 Jan.	27 Jan. – 4 Feb	7-22 April
Bern*	23 Sept. – 15 Oct.	23 Dec. – 7 Jan.	variable	7-22 April
Basel-Landschaft*	30 Sept. – 15 Oct.	23 Dec. – 3 Jan.	10-25 Feb.	24 March – 8 April
Basel-Stadt	30 Sept. – 15 Oct.	23 Dec. – 7 Jan.	10-25 Feb.	24 March – 8 April
Fribourg*	14-29 Oct.	23 Dec. – 7 Jan.	10-18 Feb.	30 March – 15 April
Geneva	23-29 Oct.	23 Dec. – 7 Jan.	10-18 Feb.	29 March – 8 April
Glarus	7-22 Oct.	23 Dec. – 7 Jan.	27 Jan. – 4 Feb.	30 March – 15 April
Graubünden*	7-22 Oct.	23 Dec. – 7 Jan.	24 Feb. – 4 March	14-29 April
Jura	7-22 Oct.	23 Dec. – 7 Jan.	10-18 Feb.	30 March – 15 April
Lucerne*	30 Sept. – 15 Oct.	23 Dec. – 7 Jan.	3-18 Feb.	30 March – 15 April
Neuchâtel	30 Sept. – 15 Oct.	21 Dec. – 7 Jan.	24 Feb. – 4 March	30 March – 15 April
Nidwalden*	30 Sept. – 15 Oct.	23 Dec. – 7 Jan.	3-18 Feb.	30 March – 15 April
Obwalden*	30 Sept. – 15 Oct.	23 Dec. – 7 Jan.	3-18 Feb.	30 March – 15 April
St. Gallen	30 Sept. – 22 Oct.	23 Dec. – 7 Jan.	variable	7-22 April
Schaffhausen	30 Sept. – 22 Oct.	23 Dec. – 2 Jan.	27 Jan. – 11 Feb.	14 April – 1 May
Solothurn*	30 Sept. – 22 Oct.	23 Dec. – 7 Jan.	3-18 Feb.	7-22 April
Schwyz*	30 Sept. – 15 Oct.	23 Dec. – 7 Jan.	24 Feb. – 4 March	28 April – 14 May
Thurgau	7-22 Oct.	23 Dec. – 7 Jan.	27 Jan. – 4 Feb.	30 March – 15 April
Ticino	28 Oct. – 5 Nov.	23 Dec. – 7 Jan.	10-18 Feb.	30 March – 8 April
Uri*	7-22 Oct.	23 Dec. – 7 Jan.	3-11 March	28 April – 14 May
Vaud	7-22 Oct.	23 Dec. – 7 Jan.	17-25 Feb.	30 March – 15 April
Valais*	21 Oct. – 5 Nov.	23 Dec. – 7 Jan.	10-18 Feb	30 March – 8 April
Zug	7-22 Oct.	23 Dec. – 7 Jan.	3-18 Feb..	14-29 April
Zurich*	7-22 Oct.	23 Dec. – 7 Jan.	10-25 Feb.	23 April – 4 May

* with variation between regions/municipalities

TURKEY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education– 2017/18

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	18 September 2017 (1st grade – 11 September 2017)	18 September 2017 (1st grade – 11 September 2017)
End of students' school year	8 June 2018	8 June 2018
Christmas/New Year	1 January 2018	1 January 2018
Winter/Carnival	2 weeks 19 January – 2 February 2018	2 weeks 19 January – 2 February 2018
Summer	13 weeks 8 June – 17 September 2018	13 weeks 8 June – 17 September 2018
Public/religious holidays	29 October 2017 (No holiday – Republic Day) 23 April 2018 (1 day – Children's Day) 1 May 2018 (1 day – Labour Day) 19 May 2018 (No holiday – Youth and Sport Day)	29 October 2017 (No holiday – Republic Day) 23 April 2018 (1 day – Children's Day) 1 May 2018 (1 day – Labour Day) 19 May 2018 (No holiday – Youth and Sport Day)
Starting date of teachers' school year	Beginning September	Beginning September
End of teachers' school year	Beginning July	Beginning July

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes

In primary and general secondary education, a school year must contain at least 180 days. A school year runs 9 months from September to June. The total number of public/religious holidays is only 2 days.

A school year is divided into two parts: at the end of a semester, there is a two-week holiday, called mid-school year holiday. The summer holidays are between June and September. Decisions on ending/starting semester dates are made by the Ministry.

Source: The work schedule of Ministry of National Education.

UNITED KINGDOM – ENGLAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/18

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Between 23 August and 6 September 2017	Between 23 August and 6 September 2017
End of students' school year	Between 13 and 27 July 2018	Between 13 and 27 July 2018
Autumn holidays	1 week between 16 October and 3 November 2017	1 week between 16 October and 3 November 2017
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks between 18 December 2017 and 5 January 2018	2 weeks between 18 December 2017 and 5 January 2018
Winter/Carnival	1 week between 12 and 23 February 2018	1 week between 12 and 23 February 2018
Spring/Easter	2 weeks between 26 March and 13 April 2018	2 weeks between 26 March and 13 April 2018
Third term	1 week – 28 May to 1 June 2018	1 week – 28 May to 1 June 2018
Summer	6 weeks between 16 July and first week of September 2018	6 weeks between 16 July and first week of September 2018
Public/religious holidays	7 May 2018 – early May bank holiday (see Additional notes) 28 May 2018 – late May bank holiday (within third term holiday)	7 May 2018 – early May bank holiday (see Additional notes) 28 May 2018 – late May bank holiday (within third term holiday)
Starting date of teachers' school year	Last week of August or first week of September 2017	Last week of August or first week of September 2017
End of teachers' school year	Between 13 and 27 July 2018	Between 13 and 27 July 2018

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes

The school year is normally divided into three terms, each of which is divided into two half terms separated by a half term holiday. The dates of school holidays take into account and cover most public holidays including Easter.

Maintained schools are required to be open for a minimum of 380 half-day sessions each year, in accordance with the Education (School Day and School Year) (England) Regulations 1999, as amended. Within this framework, term dates are determined by the local authority for community and voluntary-controlled schools and by the school governing body for foundation and voluntary-aided schools. Teachers are required to be available for five additional days when pupils are not present, i.e. for 195 days in total. These days are used for staff training and development. Individual schools can decide when to schedule these days within term-time and most schools schedule them either at the start or end of term.

For academies, there are no regulations; the academy trust determines the number of school sessions and the term dates. The recent growth in the number of academies means that approximately 70 per cent of secondary and 30 per cent of primary schools in England are responsible for setting their own term dates.

Students usually have a total of around 13 weeks' holiday per year.

The table shows the most common patterns for term dates and holidays set by LAs.

Schools with a significant number of pupils who will be celebrating non-Christian religious festivals (for example Eid-UI-Adha, Eid-UI-Fitr, Guru Nanak's birthday, Diwali) may consider making these optional closure days.

UNITED KINGDOM – WALES

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/18

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September (Group B) or 4 September 2017 (Group A) (see Additional notes)	1 September (Group B) or 4 September 2017 (Group A) (see Additional notes)
End of students' school year	20 July (Group B) or 24 July 2018 (Group A)	20 July (Group B) or 24 July 2018 (Group A)
Autumn holidays	1 week 30 October to 3 November 2017	1 week 30 October to 3 November 2017
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 25 December 2017 to 5 January 2018	2 weeks 25 December 2017 to 5 January 2018
Winter/Carnival	1 week 12 to 16 February (Group B) or 19 to 23 February 2018 (Group A)	1 week 12 to 16 February (Group B) or 19 to 23 February 2018 (Group A)
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 26 March to 6 April (Group B) or 30 March to 13 April 2018 (Group A)	2 weeks 26 March to 6 April (Group B) or 30 March to 13 April 2018 (Group A)
Third term	1 week 28 May to 1 June 2018	1 week 28 May to 1 June 2018
Summer	6 weeks 23 July (Group B) or 25 July (Group A) to first week of September 2018	6 weeks 23 July (Group B) or 25 July (Group A) to first week of September 2018
Public/religious holidays	7 May 2018 – early May bank holiday (see Additional notes) 28 May 2018 – late May Bank Holiday (within third term holiday)	7 May 2018 – early May bank holiday (see Additional notes) 28 May 2018 – late May Bank Holiday (within third term holiday)
Starting date of teachers' school year	First week of September 2017	First week of September 2017
End of teachers' school year	Third week of July (Group B) or fourth week of July 2018 (Group A)	Third week of July (Group B) or fourth week of July 2018 (Group A)

Source: [Cabinet Secretary for Education's Written Statement – School Term Dates 2017/18](#)

Additional notes

Under the Education (Wales) Act 2014, local authorities (LAs) and the governing bodies of voluntary aided and foundation schools are under a duty to co-operate and co-ordinate with each other to ensure that term dates are the same or as similar as possible. For 2017/18, two sets of dates are being used by schools in Wales. One set of dates has been agreed by LAs and voluntary aided and foundation schools in South Wales (Group A) and another set has been agreed by LAs and voluntary aided and foundation schools in North Wales and Powys (Group B). For further information, see the Cabinet Secretary for Education's [written statement](#) on school term dates 2017/18.

Traditionally, the school year is divided into three terms, each of which is divided into two half terms separated by a half term holiday. The dates of school holidays are normally planned to take into account and cover most national public holidays including Easter.

The length of the school year, 380 half day sessions (190 days), is laid down centrally. Teachers are required to be available for training and development purposes for five additional days when pupils are not present, i.e. for 195 days in total.

Students usually have approximately 13 weeks' holiday per year.

UNITED KINGDOM – NORTHERN IRELAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/18

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2017	1 September 2017
End of students' school year	29 June 2018	29 June 2018
Autumn holidays	2 days 30 to 31 October 2017	2 days 30 to 31 October 2017
Christmas/New Year	1.5 weeks 21 December 2017 – 1 January 2018	1.5 weeks 21 December 2017 – 1 January 2018
Winter/Carnival	2 days 15-16 February 2018	2 days 15-16 February 2018
Spring/Easter	1.5 weeks 29 March to 6 April 2018	1.5 weeks 29 March to 6 April 2018
Third term	–	–
Summer	9 weeks Between 2 July and first week of September 2018	9 weeks Between 2 July and first week of September 2018
Public/religious holidays	7 May 2018 – early May bank holiday 28 May 2018 – late May bank holiday	7 May 2018 – early May bank holiday 28 May 2018 – late May bank holiday
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2017	1 September 2017
End of teachers' school year	29 June 2018	29 June 2018

Source: Department of Education (DE) School holidays [article](#)

Additional notes

Schools are required to be in operation for 200 days. The number of days that pupils are taught in the classroom may vary from 185 to 190 days when optional closing days, teacher training days and School Development Days (SDDs) are taken into account.

The five optional closing days may be taken as an extension to the Easter, Christmas or summer holidays or to cover closure in exceptional circumstances, for example, the death of someone connected with the school or a planned event such as a move to new premises/building work or a religious holiday.

Teachers are required to be available for work on 195 days, of which no more than 190 days should involve teaching children in the classroom. The remaining five non-contact days are used for training purposes.

Schools may also avail themselves of up to five School Development Days (SDDs) for the purpose of school improvement and school/staff development.

Decisions on when to take these days are set, depending on the legal category of the school, by the Education Authority or board of governors.

For further information, see [Circular 2013/19](#).

Students usually have approximately 13 weeks' holiday per year.

St. Patrick's Day 2018 – Most years, some schools close on St. Patrick's Day, which is a public holiday. In 2018, St. Patrick's Day falls on Saturday 17 March. While the public holiday moves to Monday 19 March, this date is not included in the Department of Education (DE) [article](#) on school holidays.

UNITED KINGDOM – SCOTLAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/18

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Mid-August 2017	Mid-August 2017
End of students' school year	End June/early July 2018	End June/early July 2018
Autumn holidays	All schools will take from 1 to 2 weeks between 6 and 27 October 2017 and some will also take from 1 to 2 days in September 2017	All schools will take from 1 to 2 weeks between 6 and 27 October 2017 and some will also take from 1 to 2 days in September 2017
Christmas/New Year	Around 2 weeks between 21 December 2017 to 9 January 2018	Around 2 weeks between 21 December 2017 to 9 January 2018
Winter/Carnival	From 1 day to 1 week between 4 and 26 February 2018	From 1 day to 1 week between 4 and 26 February 2018
Spring/Easter	About 2 weeks between 23 March and 17 April 2018	About 2 weeks between 23 March and 17 April 2018
Summer mid-term holidays	Schools will take at least one day between 4 and 28 May 2018, but some take up to 4 days during this period	Schools will take at least one day between 4 and 28 May 2018, but many take up to 4 days during this period
Summer	End June/early July 2018	End June/early July 2018
Public/religious holidays	Up to 3 days	Up to 3 days
Starting date of teachers' school year	Mid-August 2017	Mid-August 2017
End of teachers' school year	End June/early July 2018	End June/early July 2018

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes

In Scotland, pupils attend school for 190 days a year, and have 71 holiday days. The teachers' school year is longer by 5 in-service days (195 days). There are around 30 holiday days during term time (i.e. excluding summer holidays and weekends). With the summer holidays it would be closer to 65 days in total, however this varies between schools due to different start and end dates.

As school holidays (and in-service days) are not fixed nationally, but by each of the 32 local education authorities, term dates vary from one authority to another. There are no differences between primary and secondary schools.

The Organisation of School Time in Europe. Primary and General Secondary Education – 2017/18

The school calendar contains national data on the length of the school year, the start and the end dates of each school year, the timing and length of school holidays and the number of school days. Key points are illustrated by comparative figures. The information is available for 37 countries covering both primary and general secondary education.

The Eurydice network's task is to understand and explain how Europe's different education systems are organised and how they work. The network provides descriptions of national education systems, comparative studies devoted to specific topics, indicators and statistics. All Eurydice publications are available free of charge on the Eurydice website or in print upon request. Through its work, Eurydice aims to promote understanding, cooperation, trust and mobility at European and international levels. The network consists of national units located in European countries and is coordinated by the EU Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency. For more information about Eurydice, see <http://ec.europa.eu/eurydice>.

