EURYDICE

Directorate-General for Education and Culture

Organisation of school time in Europe

Primary and general secondary education

School year 2005/06

September 2005

European Commission

TABLE I – LENGTH OF THE SCHOOL YEAR 2005/2006
(PRIMARY AND GENERAL SECONDARY EDUCATION)

COUNTRY	PRIMARY EDUCATION		GENERAL SECONDARY EDUCATION	
	Beginning 2005	End 2006	Beginning 2005	End 2006
BELGIUM FRENCH COMMUNITY FLEMISH COMMUNITY GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY[2]	 01 September 01 September 01 September	 30 June 30 June 30 June	 01 September 01 September 01 September	 30 June 30 June 30 June
CZECH REPUBLIC[1]	01 September	01 September	01 September	01 September
DENMARK[3]	01 August	24 June	01 August	24 June
GERMANY[4]	01 August	31 July	01 August	31 July
ESTONIA[5]	01 September	05 June	01 September	05 June
GREECE[6]	12 September	15 June	12 September (lower and upper education)	Mid-May lower education 15 May upper education
SPAIN[7]	Between 01 and 15 September	Between 21 and 30 June	Between 01 and 19 September	Between 21 and 30 June
FRANCE[8]	02 September	03 July	02 September	03 July
IRELAND[9]	01 September	30 June	01 September	02 June
ITALY[10]	Between 12 and 20 September	Between 07 and 16 June	Between 12 and 20 September	Between 07 and 16 June
CYPRUS[11]	08 September	21 June	10 September	05 June
LATVIA[12]	01 September	31 May	01 September	31 May/mid-June (see Endnotes)
LITHUANIA[13]	01 September	01 June (end of lessons)	01 September	01 June (end of lessons)
LUXEMBOURG	15 September	14 July	15 September	14 July
HUNGARY[14]	01 September	15 June	01 September	15 June (5 May for those in the final year)
MALTA[15]	26 September	28 June	26 September	28 June
NETHERLANDS[16]	Between 15 August and 05 September	Between 30 June and 21 July	Between 22 August and 05 September	Between 30 June and 14 July
AUSTRIA[17]	Wien, Niederösterreich, Burgenland: 05 September other *Länder*: 12 September	Wien, Niederösterreich, Burgenland: 30 June other *Länder*: 07 July	Wien, Niederösterreich, Burgenland: 05 September other *Länder*: 12 September	Wien, Niederösterreich, Burgenland: 30 June other *Länder*: 07 July
POLAND[18]	01 September	30 June	01 September	30 June
PORTUGAL[19]	Staggered between 12 and 16 September	23 June	Staggered between 12 and 16 September	23 June
SLOVENIA[20]	01 September (primary and lower secondary education)	23 June (primary and lower secondary education)	01 September (upper secondary education)	23 June (upper secondary education)
SLOVAKIA[21]	01 September	31 August	01 September	31 August
FINLAND[22]	Between 11 and 16 August	03 June	Between 11 and 16 August	03 June
SWEDEN[23]	Between 15 and 29 August	Between 08 and 16 June	Between 15 and 29 August	Between 08 and 16 June

COUNTRY	PRIMARY EDUCATION		GENERAL SECONDARY EDUCATION	
	Beginning 2005	**End 2006**	**Beginning 2005**	**End 2006**
UNITED KINGDOM				
ENGLAND AND WALES[24]	First week of September	Third or fourth week of July	First week of September	Third or fourth week of July
NORTHERN IRELAND[25]	First week of September	End of June	First week of September	End of June
SCOTLAND[26]	Mid-August	End of June	Mid-August	End of June
ICELAND[27]	Between 22 August and 01 September	Between 01 and 09 June	Between 22 August and 01 September	Between 19 and 31 May
LIECHTENSTEIN	17 August	07 July	17 August	07 July
NORWAY[28]	Between 16 and 22 August	Between 16 and 23 June	Between 17 and 22 August	Between 16 and 23 June
BULGARIA[29]	15 September	23 May grade 1 31 May grades 2, 3 and 4	15 September	19 May grades 12 and 13 15 June grades 5-8 30 June grade 8 with admission after grade 7, grades 9, 10 and 11
ROMANIA[30]	12 September	16 June	12 September	16 June
TURKEY[31]	12 September	10 June	12 September	10 June

ENDNOTES

TABLE I – LENGTH OF THE SCHOOL YEAR 2005/2006 (PRIMARY AND GENERAL SECONDARY EDUCATION)

[2] **BELGIUM GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY**: The **teachers'** school year is similar to the students' school year but, since 2005/06, the head of institutions may require teachers to be present the last 5 working days of the month of August for certain non-teaching activities (exams, decisions in connection with the student's results, preparation of the new school year**,** etc.).

[1] **CZECH REPUBLIC**: According to the Labour Code, the holiday for **teachers** at primary or secondary level is 8 weeks each calendar year. They take it primarily in the time of school holidays.

[3] **DENMARK**: *Folkeskoler* are at liberty to decide on the number of holidays and their distribution, provided they offer a minimum number of lessons in each subject. The Ministry of Education only determines the date of the last day of the school year. This is the case for both primary and general secondary education. 01 August is the earliest possible date to start, schools normally begin 1, 2 or even 3 weeks later.

[4] **GERMANY**: In accordance with the *Hamburg Agreement* between the *Länder* on harmonisation in the school system, the school year begins on 01 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.

LENGTH OF STUDENTS' SCHOOL YEAR 2005/2006			
Primary and general secondary education			
	Beginning of school year 2005/2006	**Summer holidays 2006**	
		Beginning	**End**
BERLIN, BRANDENBURG	08 August	06 July	19 August
MECKLENBURG-VORPOMMERN, SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN	08 August	10 July	19 August
HAMBURG	11 August	06 July	16 August
NORDRHEIN-WESTFALEN	22 August	26 June	08 August
BREMEN, NIEDERSACHSEN, SACHSEN-ANHALT, THÜRINGEN	25 August	20 July	30 August
SACHSEN	29 August	24 July	01 September
HESSEN, RHEINLAND-PFALZ	05 September	17 July	25 August
SAARLAND	05 September	17 July	26 August
BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG	12 September	03 August	16 September
BAYERN	13 September	31 July	11 September

[5] **ESTONIA**: The Basic Schools and Upper Secondary Schools Act stipulates that an academic year shall start on 01 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 for every 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 vacation. Generally, they go on vacation in the middle of June and are back in the middle of August.

[6] **GREECE:** Official school year: 01 September 2005 to 31 August 2006. Teaching school year: 12 September 2005 to 15 June 2006.

TEACHERS' SCHOOL YEAR 2005/2006			
Primary education		**General secondary education (upper/lower)**	
Beginning 2005	**End 2006**	**Beginning 2005**	**End 2006**
01 September	21 June	01 September	End of June

[7] **SPAIN**: Dates vary according to the different Autonomous Communities. For detail information, also on **teachers'** school year, see the following table:

LENGTH OF STUDENTS' SCHOOL YEAR 2005/2006					TEACHERS' SCHOOL YEAR 2005/2006	
	Primary education		**General secondary education**		**Primary/General secondary**	
	Beginning 2005	**End 2006**	**Beginning 2005**	**End 2006**	**Beginning 2005**	**End 2006**
Andalucía	15 September	22 June	15 September	22 June	01 September	30 June
Aragón	12 September[1]	21 June[1]	13 September	21 June	01 September	30 June
Asturias	12 September	23 June	13 September	23 June	01 September	30 June

SPAIN

	LENGTH OF STUDENTS' SCHOOL YEAR 2005/2006				TEACHERS' SCHOOL YEAR 2005/2006	
	Primary education		General secondary education		Primary/General secondary	
	Beginning 2005	End 2006	Beginning 2005	End 2006	Beginning 2005	End 2006
Baleares	14 September	23 June	16 September	26 June	01 September	30 June; official 31 August
Canarias	07 September	22 June	12 September	22 June	01 September	30 June
Cantabria	08 September[1]	20 June[1]	16 September	27 June	01 September	30 June
Castilla y León	13 September[1]	23 June[1]	19 September	23 June	01 September	30 June
Castilla-La Mancha	Never before 01 September	Never after 30 June	Never before 01 September	Never after 30 June	01 September	30 June
Cataluña	12 September	22 June	12 September	22 June	01 September	30 June
Extremadura	12 September	23 June	12 September 19 September advanced Vocational Training Cycles	23 June	01 September	30 June
Galicia	12 September	26 June	19 September	26 June	01 September	30 June official 31 August
Madrid	12 September	23 June	14 September	23 June	01 September	30 June
Murcia	12 September[1]	26 June[1]	14 September	28 June	01 September	30 June
Navarra[2]	13 September	21 June	15 September	23 June	01 September	30 June
País Vasco[3]	01 September	30 June	01 September	30 June	Not before 01 September	Not later than 30 June
C.Valenciana	09 September[1]	21 June[1]	16 September	22 June	-	-
La Rioja	07 September	20 June	16 September	23 June	01 September	30 June

1) Date for the first cycle of Compulsory Secondary Education when it takes place at a Primary School.
2) Dates for the first cycle of Compulsory Secondary Education when it takes place at a Primary School: beginning not later than 15 September and ending not before 24 June.
3) Taking into account the beginning and ending dates and ensuring the minimum established timetable, education centres are free to establish their own calendar.

[8] **FRANCE**: Certain schools have a 4-day-week. Only in these cases will the dates vary. Lessons will start on 23 August 2005 and end on 07 July 2006. **Teachers** have to begin on 1 September 2005.

[9] **IRELAND**: In general, school commence on the 1 September provided it is a weekday. However, to ensure compliance with the agreed arrangements on the standardisation of the school year and the requirement at second level that school provide a minimum of 167 days tuition, it may be necessary, because of particular circumstances arising in the school year 2005/06, that some second level schools commence on the 30 or 31 August 2005.

[10] **ITALY:** It is up to the *Direttori degli Uffici scolastici regionali* (school regional authorities) to decide the date of beginning of the school year. Starting from school year 2002/2003 also the date of end of the school year is decided by the Regions. That means that the school year can begin and finish at different dates, according to the decision taken at regional level. The *Direttore dell'Ufficio scolastico regionale* can decide for the same Region different dates of beginning and end, according to the school level. Generally speaking, the school year begins between the 2nd and the 4th week of September and finishes between the 1st and the 3rd week of June.

According to the implementation of school autonomy, the consultative councils of the schools can adapt the school calendar concerning the beginning and the end of the lessons. It means that the decisions of the *Direttori degli Uffici scolastici regionali* will be applied only in the case that schools have not decided their own dates of beginning and end. The school adaptations of the organisation of school time must guarantee at least 200 days of lesson a school year.

LENGTH OF STUDENTS' SCHOOL YEAR 2005/2006		
Primary and General secondary education		
	Beginning 2005	**End 2006**
Abruzzo	15 September	10 June
Alto Adige (Bolzano)	12 September	16 June
Basilicata	19 September	10 June
	Beginning 2005	**End 2006**
Calabria	15 September	10 June
Campania	15 September	10 June
Emilia-Romagna	19 September	10 June
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	12 September	08 June
Lazio	15 September	10 June
Liguria	20 September	10 June
Lombardia	12 September	10 June
Marche	12 September	07 June
Molise	12 September	08 June
Piemonte	12 September	10 June
Puglia	19 September	10 June
Sardegna	19 September	10 June
Sicilia	19 September	10 June
Toscana	15 September	10 June
Trentino (Trento)	12 September	10 June
Umbria	15 September	10 June
Valle D'Aosta	14 September	08 June
Veneto	19 September	10 June

TEACHERS' SCHOOL YEAR 2005/2006			
Primary education		**General secondary education**	
Beginning 2005	**End 2006**	**Beginning 2005**	**End 2006**
01 September	30 June	01 September	30 June

[11] **CYPRUS**: The official school year in **primary education** is from 05 September 2005 to 23 June 2006. The official school year for **general secondary education** is from 01 September 2005 to 31 August 2006.
The school year includes registration days, sorting out of schools and classes and exam periods - both **primary** and **secondary** education. The school year is longer for **teachers** in both primary and general secondary education:

TEACHERS' SCHOOL YEAR 2005/2006			
Primary education		**General secondary education**	
Beginning 2005	**End 2006**	**Beginning 2005**	**End 2006**
05 September	23 June	01 September	30 June

[12] **LATVIA:** The school year is divided in two semesters: the first from 1 September to 23 December and the second from 10 January to 31 May (or 09 June for the 9th class and 16 June for the 12th class).
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. coldness, strike, emergency situation in school, etc.).
The **teachers**' school year corresponds with student's year, but is normally longer and starts earlier, though the start and the end date is not defined officially. The employment status of teachers is contractual and determined by the labour law. Hence, teachers are engaged not just when classes are in operation, but also in periods during which schools are open for administrative reasons. In any case, the teacher has the right to receive 8 weeks of paid annual leave, commonly in summer.

[13] **LITHUANIA**: It is within each school's discretion to decide what kind of activity pupils will be offered from 01 to 21 June: either disciplinary subject-based projects, subject/art weeks, work at the school library, visits to higher education schools, installing exhibition, visits to historic places, sports events, remedial courses for pupils not showing notable progress, etc.
Pupils in the years 1 to 5 can finish only after at least 170 school days, while those in the years 6 to 11 after at least 195 days. These days include the national holidays. Pupils in the last year of upper secondary education finish their lessons on 25 May.
The annual amount of leave for **teachers** is legislated as 56 calendar 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).

[14] **HUNGARY:** The number of teaching days is 181, compulsory, for all institutions.

[15] **MALTA**: 13 to 15 June 2006: secondary sector schools - oral examinations (annual examinations); 16 to 28 June 2006: Secondary sector schools annual examinations; 26 to 28 June 2006: Primary schools annual examinations.
Teachers begin 22 September 2005 and end 12 July 2006 in Primary and general secondary education. 16, 19 and 20 September 2005 and 7, 10 and 12 July 2006 are INSET Days.

[16] **NETHERLANDS**: The school year officially runs from 01 August to 31 July of the following year. Start and end of the teaching year is according to region (north, central and south region).

LENGTH OF STUDENTS' SCHOOL YEAR 2005/2006				
	Primary education		General secondary education	
	Beginning 2005	End 2006	Beginning 2005	End 2006
North region	05 September	21 July	05 September	14 July
Central region	15 August	07 July	22 August	07 July
South region	22 August	30 June	29 August	30 June

The t**eachers'** school year is similar as 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.)

[17] **AUSTRIA**: Other *Länder*: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg.
The **teachers'** school year is of the same length as the pupils' school year.

[18] **POLAND**: End of the school year in both primary and secondary schools is always the last Friday of June. In the last grades of upper secondary schools ending with the Matura examination, however, the school year ends earlier, but the date has not yet been decided. In the last grades of gymnasium (lower secondary) ending with the external examination, the school year ends on 28 April 2006. In the last grades of basic vocational schools, ending with the external vocational examination, the school year ends on 14 June 2006.
In general, **teachers'** school year covers the same period of time as pupils' school year. Teachers' holidays, however, may be shortened by max. 7 days, if there is a need to perform organisational tasks in a given school.

[19] **PORTUGAL**: After school year starts, classes can not be interrupted.
End of school year for general secondary education: For the 9th and 12th year between 9 and 23 June.
Teachers: Beginning (2005) 1 September and end (2006) 31 August. Teachers' holidays are, as for other civil servants, determined by the general regulation (Decree-Law n. 157/2001-11 May).

[20] **SLOVENIA**: The official length of the school year is from 01 September to 31 August, but lessons are completed in June.
Primary and lower secondary education:
End of the elementary school lessons (single structure of primary and lower secondary education):
15 June for the final grade pupils, external examinations run by the end of June;
23 June for pupils who are not in the final grade.
Upper secondary education:
End of the upper secondary school lessons:
20 January is the last day of lessons for students in the final grade of short vocational courses (2,5-year duration); final examination from 1 February to 28 February;
24 May end of lessons for students in final grade of other vocational, technical and general courses; final examinations in June and July;
23 June is the last day of lessons for upper secondary students who are not in the final grade.

TEACHERS' SCHOOL YEAR 2005/2006			
Primary education		General secondary education	
Beginning 2005	End 2006	Beginning 2006	End 2006
Around 20 August	Mid-July	Around 20 August	Mid-July

Teachers' school year begins about 10 days before the pupils'/students' school year and ends some 14-21 days after the end of pupils' lessons. The precise length depends on the individually determined leave of a teacher (from 22 to 35 days) and his/her tasks and obligations allocated by the head teacher.

[21] **SLOVAKIA**: Official school year: 01 September to 31 August.
Starting date of teaching in the school year 20005/2006 is 01 September 2005 and ends on 30 June 2006.
Following the Labour Code, **teachers** and **head teachers** have holidays in the length of 8 weeks per year. Usually, **teachers** work one week after beginning of summer holidays and one week before the beginning of the school.

[22] **FINLAND**: The providers of basis education (municipalities, school boards of private schools) decide on the precise starting date of the school year and other possible short holiday periods, but the date of the last school day, as well as the length of the school year, are fixed. According to the Basic Education Act (628/1998), teachers and pupils have 190 school days in pre-primary, basic and voluntary additional basic education. The General Education Act (629/1998) does not regulate the length of the school year for upper secondary schools, but general education institutions mostly follow the practice of the basic education institutions.

[23] **SWEDEN**: The exact days vary on regional and municipality levels.

Students have 182 school days and **teachers** 194. Generally, **teachers** start around 10 August and finish around 12 June.

[24] In **ENGLAND AND WALES**, schools must be open for at least 380 half day sessions each school year. The dates of school terms are not fixed nationally; they are set, depending on the legal category of the school, by the local education authority (LEA) or school governing body. Although school holidays generally cover the same core periods, exact dates may vary between schools and authorities. In most cases, the school year runs from the first week of September to the third or fourth week of July. There is currently some movement towards the adoption of a standard school year which would be consistent year on year. A number of LEAs began to introduce this from 2004/05 and some are working towards introducing this model from 2005/06. However, the decision to adopt this new model remains at the level of the LEA or school governing body.
Length of the **teachers'** school year: Teachers are required to be available for 5 additional days. Schools normally schedule these within the school opening dates given in the table.

[25] In **NORTHERN IRELAND**, schools must be open for 190 days a year. The dates of school terms are not fixed nationally; they are set, depending on the legal category of the school, by the Education and Library Board or school governing body. Therefore school holidays may differ between boards and schools. The five Education and Library Boards, encouraged by the Department of Education, have set up a harmonisation scheme, which sets the core holiday dates on which no services (school transport and school meals) are provided. Schools do not have to set holidays within these dates, but they are strongly advised to do so. In addition, for the 2005/06 school year, schools may allocate up to four 'School Development Days' from within the 190 days. These four days are devoted to staff development and school improvement and the school is closed to pupils.
Length of **teachers'** school year: Teachers are required to be available for 5 additional days. These are scheduled by schools to take place outside but near to the dates given in the table.

[26] **SCOTLAND**: In Scotland, pupils attend school for 190 days a year.
The **teachers'** school year is longer by 5 in-service days, thus it is 195 days long.

[27] In **ICELAND**, compulsory education covers both primary and lower secondary education.
There are still a few small rural schools at compulsory level which operate for 8 ½ months.
Teachers work for 9 months.

Teachers' school year 2005/2006			
Primary and lower secondary education		**Upper secondary education**	
Beginning 2005	**End 2006**	**Beginning 2005**	**End 2006**
Between 15 and 31 August	Between 02 and 14 June	Between 18 and 31 August	Between 22 May and 02 June

[28] **NORWAY**: The teachers' school year is roughly the same as the students'. The weeks vary between different municipalities and counties, but it is required that the teaching covers a period of at least 38 school weeks and that it takes place within a period of 45 continuous weeks during a school year.

[29] **BULGARIA**: The length of the school year for the teachers is the same as for the students.

[30] **ROMANIA**: Beginning of the school year: In exceptional situations, depending on local climatic conditions and school's specificity, the structure of the school year can be modified at the request of schools approved by the local educational authorities (County School Inspectorates). Approval is given if the number of 36 weeks and 177 school days is maintained and all pupils may participate, without restrictions in national examinations.

[31] **TURKEY**: For primary education and general secondary education, a school year must be not less than 180 days. A school year runs 9 months from September to June.
The length of the **teachers'** school year for primary and general secondary education is from 01 September 2005 to 11 June 2006.

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TABLE II – STARTING DATES OF THE SCHOOL YEAR IN 2005/2006
(PRIMARY AND GENERAL SECONDARY EDUCATION)

COUNTRY	STARTING DATES - 2005	
BELGIUM		
FRENCH COMMUNITY	01 September	
FLEMISH COMMUNITY	01 September	
GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY	01 September	
CZECH REPUBLIC	01 September	
DENMARK[1]	01 August	
GERMANY		
BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG	12 September	
BAYERN	13 September	
BERLIN	08 August	
BRANDENBURG	08 August	
BREMEN	25 August	
HAMBURG	11 August	
HESSEN	05 September	
MECKLENBURG-VORPOMMERN	08 August	
NIEDERSACHSEN	25 August	
NORDRHEIN-WESTFALEN	22 August	
RHEINLAND-PFALZ	05 September	
SAARLAND	05 September	
SACHSEN	29 August	
SACHSEN-ANHALT	25 August	
SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN	08 August	
THÜRINGEN	25 August	
ESTONIA	01 September	
GREECE[2]	12 September	
SPAIN[3]	**Primary** between 01 and 15 September	**General secondary** Between 01 and 19 September
FRANCE	02 September	
IRELAND	01 September	
ITALY	Between 12 and 20 September	
CYPRUS	**Primary** 08 September	**General secondary** 10 September
LATVIA	01 September	
LITHUANIA	01 September	
LUXEMBOURG	15 September	
HUNGARY	01 September	
MALTA	26 September	
NETHERLANDS	**Primary**	**General secondary**
NORTH REGION	05 September	05 September
CENTRAL REGION	15 August	22 August
SOUTH REGION	22 August	29 August
AUSTRIA		
BURGENLAND, NIEDERÖSTERREICH, WIEN	05 September	
OTHER LÄNDER	12 September	
POLAND	01 September	
PORTUGAL	Between 12 and 16 September	
SLOVENIA	01 September	
SLOVAKIA	01 September	
FINLAND	Between 11 and 16 August	
SWEDEN	Between 15 and 29 August	
UNITED KINGDOM		
ENGLAND AND WALES	First week of September	
NORTHERN IRELAND	First week of September	
SCOTLAND[4]	Mid-August	

COUNTRY	STARTING DATES - 2005	
ICELAND	Between 22 August and 01 September	
LIECHTENSTEIN	17 August	
NORWAY	**Primary** Between 16 and 22 August	**General secondary** Between 17 and 22 August
BULGARIA	15 September	
ROMANIA	12 September	
TURKEY	12 September	

ENDNOTES

[1] **DENMARK**: Not all schools start at the same date. 01 August is the earliest possible date to start school.

[2] **GREECE**: Official school year: 01 September - 31 August.

[3] **SPAIN**: Each Autonomous Community officially starts and ends the school year on a fixed date within this period. Teachers begin on 01 September.

[4] UK-**SCOTLAND**: There are no differences between primary and secondary schools, however, there are variances across the 32 local education authorities.
The earliest **start date** for the school year 2005/06 is 15 August 2005.

TABLE III – SCHOOL HOLIDAYS OVER THE SCHOOL YEAR 2005/2006
(PRIMARY AND GENERAL SECONDARY EDUCATION)

COUNTRY	AUTUMN 2005	CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR 2005/2006	WINTER / CARNIVAL 2006	SPRING / EASTER 2006	3rd TERM 2006	SUMMER 2006	PUBLIC HOLIDAYS / OCCASIONAL/RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS 2005/2006
BELGIUM							
FRENCH COMMUNITY	1 week (31 October-04 November)	2 weeks (26 December-06 January)	1 week (27 February-03 March))	2 weeks (03-17 April)	-	9 weeks (01 July-31 August)	5 public holidays (27/09; 11/11; 01/05, 25/05; 05/06)
FLEMISH COMMUNITY	1 week (31 October-04 November)	2 weeks (26 December-06 January)	1 week (27 February-03 March)	2 weeks (03-17 April)	-	9 weeks (01 July-31 August)	5 public holidays (11/11; 01/05; 25/05; 26/05; 05/06 + 2 extra days)
GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY	1 week (31 October-04 November)	2 weeks (26 December-06 January)	1 week (27 February-03 March)	2 weeks (03-17 April)	-	9 weeks (01 July-31 August)	5 public holidays (11/11; 15/11; 01/05; 25/05; 05/06 + 1 extra day)
CZECH REPUBLIC[1]	2 days (26 and 27 October)	About 1 week (23 December-02 January)	1 day (03 February)	1 week (between 06 February and 19 March depending on the region); 2 days (13-14 April)	-	9 weeks (01 July-01 September)	6 days (28/09; 28/10; 17/11; 17/04; 01/05; 08/05)
DENMARK[2]	1 week (15-23 October)	1 ½ weeks (21 December-02 January for general upper secondary)	1 week (11-19 February)	1 week (08-17 April)	-	7 weeks (25 June to 13 August)	5 public holidays (01/05 only primary; 12/05; 25/05; 26/05 only primary; 05/06)
GERMANY[3]	4 to 12 days (staggered between 04 October and 05 November)	7 to 13 days (staggered between 21 December and 07 January)	0 to 12 days (staggered between 30 January and 03 March)	4 to 12 days (staggered between 06 March and 22 April)	0 to 11 days (staggered between 22 May and 17 June)	6 weeks (staggered between 26 June and 16 September)	Up to 10 days, depending on the *Land*
ESTONIA	1 week (22 October-30 October)	2 weeks (24 December-08 January)	-	1 week (18-26 March)	-	12 ½ weeks (04 June-31 August)	3 days (24/02; 14/04; 01/05)
GREECE	-	2 weeks (23 December-07 January)	-	2 weeks (17-28 April)	-	**Prim.**: 10 weeks (22 June-31 August) **Sec.**: 9 weeks (01 July-31 August)	5 national/religious holidays (28/10; 30/01; 06/03; 25/03; 12/06 and some holidays of regional character)

COUNTRY	AUTUMN 2005	CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR 2005/2006	WINTER / CARNIVAL 2006	SPRING / EASTER 2006	3rd TERM 2006	SUMMER 2006	PUBLIC HOLIDAYS / OCCASIONAL/RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS 2005/2006
SPAIN[4]	-	2 weeks (between 22 December and 08 January)	Usually 2 or 3 days (between 25-28 February depending on the Autonomous Community)	About 1 week (staggered between 7 and 24 April depending on the Autonomous Community)	-	**Prim.**: 11 weeks (staggered between mid/late June and mid-September) **Sec.**: 12 weeks (staggered between mid/late June and mid- September)	Around 7 public holidays, depending on the Autonomous Community
FRANCE[5]	1½ week (22 October-02 November)	2 weeks (17 December-02 January)	2 weeks: 18/02-05/03 (zone A) 11/02-26/02(zone B) 04/02-19/03(zone C)	2 weeks: 22/04-08/05 (zone A) 15/04-01/05 (zone B) 08/04-23/04 (zone C)	-	9 weeks (04 July-01 September)	4 days (11/11; 16/04; 01/05; 25/05)
IRELAND[6]	1 week (31 October-04 November primary and secondary)	2 weeks 23 December-06 January primary and secondary)	2 days (16-17 February primary) 1 week (13-17 February secondary)	1 week (10-21 April primary and secondary)	-	**Prim.**: 9 weeks (01 July-31 August) **Sec.**: 13 weeks (04 June-31 August)	Around 2 public holidays + some religious holidays
ITALY[7]	-	2 weeks (between 22/24 December and 05/08 January)	1 to 4 days (in and/or February and March depending on the regions)	4 to 7 days (between 12/13 and 17/19 April depending on the regions)	-	13-14 weeks (between June and September)	5 national holidays (01/11, 08/12, 25/04; 01/05; 02/06 and Saints' days depending on the regions)
CYPRUS	-	2 weeks (**primary:** 23 December-06 January) (**secondary**: 24 December-06 January)	-	2 weeks (17-30 April)	-	Around 10 weeks (**primary:** 24 June-03 September) (**secondary**: 01 July-31 August)	11 days (01/10; 28/10; 13/11; 30/01; 06/03; 25/03; 01/04; 01/05; 01/06 only primary education; 11/06; 12/06)
LATVIA[8]	1 week (24-28 October)	2 weeks (27 December-09 January)	-	1 week (20-24 March)	-	13 weeks (01 June-31 August)	4 days (26/12; 18/11; 01/05; 04/05)
LITHUANIA [9]	1 week (31 October 06 November)	2 weeks (24 December-06 January)	-	1 week (10-17 April)	-	Not shorter than 2 months (July/August)	4 days (01/11; 16/02; 11/03; 01/05)
LUXEMBOURG	1 week (29 October-06 November)	2 weeks (24 December-08 January)	1 week (25 February-05 March)	2 weeks (08-23 April)	1 week (03-11 June)	9 weeks (15 July-14 September)	3 public holidays (01/05; 25/05; 23/06)
HUNGARY	1 week (30 October-06 November)	1 ½ weeks (22 December–02 January)	-	1 week (13-18 April)	-	11 weeks (15 June-31 August)	3 days (15/03, 01/05; 05/06)

COUNTRY	AUTUMN 2005	CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR 2005/2006	WINTER / CARNIVAL 2006	SPRING / EASTER 2006	3rd TERM 2006	SUMMER 2006	PUBLIC HOLIDAYS / OCCASIONAL/RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS 2005/2006
MALTA	3 days (01-03 November)	2 weeks (23 December-06 January)	2 days (27-28 February)	1 week (12-19 April)	-	11 weeks (29 June-14 September)	7 days (08/12; 13/12; 10/02; 31/03; 01/05; 07/06; 29/06)
NETHERLANDS[10]	1 week (staggered over 2 regions: **Central/South**: 15-23 October; **North**: 22-30 October)	2 weeks (24 December-08 January)	1 week (staggered over 2 regions: **North/Central**: 18-26 February; **South**: 25 February-05 March)	-	1 week (29 April-07 May)	**Prim**: 6 weeks (staggered over 3 regions between 01 July and 03 September) **Sec.**: 7 weeks (staggered over 3 regions between 01 July and 03 September)	3 public holidays (17/04; 25/05; 05/06) 2 national holidays (30/04 and 05/05)
AUSTRIA[11]	-	2 weeks (24 December-07 January)	1 week (**N, W**: 06-11 February; **B, K, S, T, V**: 13-18 February; **O, ST**: 20-25 February)	1 week (08-18 April)	3 days (03-06 June)	About 9 weeks (B, N, W: 01 July-02 September; K, O, S, St, T, V: 08 July-09 September)	7 days (26/10; 01/11; 02/11; 08/12; 01/05; 25/05; 15/06) 1 extra religious holiday (Saint - different in each *Land*)
POLAND[12]	-	1 week (23 December-01 January)	2 weeks (between 16 January and 26 February depending on the region)	4 days (13-18 April)	-	9 weeks (01 July-31 August)	7 days (01/11; 11/11; 01/05; 02/05; 03/05; 15/06; 16/06)
PORTUGAL	-	2 weeks (19-30 December)	3 days (27 February-01 March	10 days (03-17 April)	-	9 weeks (23 June-31 August)	8 national holidays (05/10; 01/11; 01/12; 08/12; 28/02; 25/04; 01/05; 10/05)
SLOVENIA[13]	1 week (31 October-06 November)	1 week (26 December-02 January)	1 week (between 20 and 26 February; 27 February and 05 March, depending on the regions)	1 week (27 April-02 May)	-	10 weeks (25 June-31 August)	2 days (08/02; 17/04)
SLOVAKIA[14]	3 days (28 October-01 November)	7 days (23 December-02 January)	1 day (03 February)	1 week (spring holidays) (between 20 February and 10 March, depending on the regions); 4 days (Easter holidays) (13-18 April)	-	9 weeks (01 July-31 August)	7 days (01/09; 15/09; 01/11; 17/11; 06/01; 01/05; 08/05)
FINLAND[15]	2 to 7 days (between 10 and 28 October)	1 to 2 weeks (between 19 December and 08 January)	1 week (between 20 February and 11 March)	3-4 days (between 13 and 17 April)	-	10-11 weeks (from 03 June to mid-August)	4 days (06/12; 06/01; 01/05; 25/05)

COUNTRY	AUTUMN 2005	CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR 2005/2006	WINTER / CARNIVAL 2006	SPRING / EASTER 2006	3rd TERM 2006	SUMMER 2006	PUBLIC HOLIDAYS / OCCASIONAL/RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS 2005/2006
SWEDEN[16]	1 week (between 10 October and 11 November)	About 3 weeks (between 16/22 December and 09/11 January)	1 week (between 13 and 24 February)	1 week (between 20 March and 21 April)	-	About 10 weeks (between 08/16 June and end of August)	4 days (01/05; 25/05; 26/05; 06/06)
UNITED KINGDOM ENGLAND AND WALES[17]	1 week (24-28 October)	2 weeks (21 December-03 January)	1 week (13-17 February or 20-24 February)	2 weeks (03-14 April or 10-21 April)	1 week (29 May-02 June)	6 weeks (between 24 or 26 July and the first week of September)	1 public holiday (01/05)*
NORTHERN IRELAND[18]	2 days (31 October-01 November)	2 weeks (22 December-03 January)	2 days (20-21 February)	1 week (14-21 April)	-	9 weeks (between 01 July and 31 August)	1 public holiday (01/05) up to 7 optional closure days
SCOTLAND[19]	From 1 to 2 weeks (between 01 and 21 October)	2 weeks (21 December-09 January)	1 to 7 days (between 09 and 17 February)	2 weeks (between 31 March and 24 April)	-	7 weeks (from end June to mid-August)	Up to 3 days
ICELAND[20]	0-2 days (usually in the third week of October)	2 weeks (21 December-03 January)	0-5 days primary and lower secondary; 0-2 days upper secondary (usually in the third week of February)	Approx.: 7 days (primary/lower secondary: between 10 and 19 April; upper secondary: between 10 and 18/19 April))	-	11 weeks primary and lower secondary (between 02 June and 31 August); 13 weeks upper secondary (between 22 May and 31 August)	3 public holidays (20 April; 01 May; 25 May)
LIECHTENSTEIN	2 weeks (01-16 October)	2 weeks (24 December-08 January)	1 week (25 February-05 March)	2 ½ weeks (13-30 April)	-	6 weeks (08 July-20 August)	8 public holidays (08/09; 01/11; 08/12; 02/02; 01/05; 25/05; 05/06; 15/06)
NORWAY	1 week (between 3 and 16 October)	1 ½ weeks (22 December-02 January)	1 week (between 20 February and 04 March)	1 week (10-17 April)	-	9 weeks (from between 16 and 23 June to between 17 and 23 August)	4 occasional holidays (1/05; 17/05; 25/05; 05/06)
BULGARIA	3 days (10-13 November grade 1)	1 week (24 December-08 January)	3 days (04-07 February)	1 week (01-09 April) 3 days (22-25 April)	-	-	7 public/religious holidays (22/09; 01/11; 03/03; 24/04, 01/05; 24/05; 25/05)
ROMANIA	1 week (31 October-06 November; only primary education)	2 weeks (24 December-08 January)	1 week (04 February-12 February)	1 week (15-24 April)	-	11 weeks (17 June-31 August)	2 days (1/12; 01/05)
TURKEY[21]	½ day (28 October)	-	2 weeks (16-29 January)	1 day (24 April)	-	12 weeks (12 June-12 September)	2 periods of religious holidays (03-06/11; 10-15/01)

ENDNOTES

TABLE III –SCHOOL HOLIDAYS OVER THE SCHOOL YEAR 2005/2006 (PRIMARY AND GENERAL SECONDARY EDUCATION)

[1] **CZECH REPUBLIC**

Specification of terms for spring holidays in the CZECH REPUBLIC

Term - 2006	Regions
06-12 February	Praha 1 – 5, Blansko, Brno-město, Brno-venkov, Břeclav, Hodonín, Vyškov, Znojmo, Domažlice, Tachov, Louny, Prostějov, Karviná
13-19 February	Praha 6 – 10, Cheb, Karlovy Vary, Sokolov, Nymburk, Jindřichův Hradec, Litoměřice, Děčín, Přerov, Frýdek-Místek
20-26 February	Kroměříž, Uherské Hradiště, Vsetín, Zlín, Praha-východ, Praha-západ, Mělník, Rakovník, Plzeň-město, Plzeň-sever, Plzeň-jih, Hradec Králové, Teplice, Nový Jičín
27 February-05 March	Česká Lípa, Jablonec nad Nisou, Liberec, Semily, Havlíčkův Brod, Jihlava, Pelhřimov, Třebíč, Žďár nad Sázavou, Kladno, Kolín, Kutná Hora, Písek, Náchod, Bruntál
06-12 March	Mladá Boleslav, Příbram, Tábor, Prachatice, Strakonice, Ústí nad Labem, Chomutov, Most, Jičín, Rychnov nad Kněžnou, Olomouc, Šumperk, Opava, Jeseník
13-19 March	Benešov, Beroun, Rokycany, České Budějovice, Klatovy, Český Krumlov,Trutnov, Pardubice, Chrudim, Svitavy, Ústí nad Orlicí, Ostrava-město

[2] **DENMARK**: The Ministry of Education issues guidelines to the distribution of holidays. They are not binding. Only the date of the last day of the school year must be complied with, and the school year must consist of 200 school days. - Following new legislation, municipalities are at liberty to decide when to place holidays, although it is expected that many of them will follow the previous schedule. The dates given are a holiday schedule for Århus municipality.

[3] **GERMANY**: The length of the shorter holiday periods in each year is fixed by the individual *Land*, within the total number of 75 days of the holidays in the school year.

Shorter School holiday periods (public/occasional/religious holidays)

Land	**Autumn 2005**	**Christmas / New Year 2005/2006**	**Winter 2006**	**Spring / Easter 2006**	**3rd term 2006**
Baden-Württemberg	31 Oct./02 Nov.-04 Nov.	22 Dec.-05 Jan.	-	13/18 April-22 April	29 May-10 June
Bayern	31 Oct.-05 Nov.	27 Dec.-05 Jan.	27 Febr.-03 March.	10 April-22 April	06 June-17 June
Berlin	04 Oct.-15 Oct.	22 Dec.-03 Jan.	30 Jan.-03 Febr.	10 April-21 April	26 May
Brandenburg	04 Oct.-15 Oct.	22 Dec.-03 Jan.	30 Jan.-02 Febr..	12 April-21 April	26 May
Bremen	17 Oct.-29 Oct.	23 Dec.-06 Jan.	30 Jan.-31 Jan..	03 April-18 April	06 June
Hamburg	04 Oct.-15 Oct.	23 Dec.-06 Jan..	-	06 March-18 March	22 May-27 May
Hessen	17 Oct.-28 Oct.	21 Dec.-07 Jan.	-	10 April-22 April	-
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	10 Oct.-15 Oct./01 Nov.	23 Dec.-03 Jan.	06 Febr.-18 Febr.	10 April-19 April	26 May/02 June-06 June
Niedersachsen	17 Oct.-29 Oct.	23 Dec.-06 Jan.	30 Jan-31 Jan..	03 April-18 April	26 May+06 June
Nordrhein-Westfalen	04 Oct.-15 Oct.	24 Dec.-06 Jan.	-	10 April-22 April	06 June
Rheinland-Pfalz	24 Oct.-04 Nov.	22 Dec.-06 Jan.	-	07 April-21 April	-
Saarland	19 Oct.-31 Oct.	23 Dec.-07 Jan.	23 Febr.-01 March	10 April-22 April	-
Sachsen	17 Oct.-28 Oct.	23 Dec.-02 Jan.	13 Febr.-25 Febr.	13 April-21 April	-
Sachen-Anhalt	17 Oct.-22 Oct.	23 Dec.-05 Jan.	01 Febr.-10 Febr.	10 April-13 April	26 May-02 June
Schleswig-Holstein	04 Oct.-15 Oct.	22 Dec.-04 Jan.	-	03 April-18 April	-
Thüringen	17 Oct.-29 Oct.	23 Dec.-02 Jan.	06 Febr.-10 Febr.	10 April-21 April	03 June-06 June

For Summer holidays please see table I.

[4] **SPAIN**: Summer holidays start the day after the lessons are over and finish the day before the beginning of lessons for 2005/06 and they vary depending on the Autonomous Community.

[5] **FRANCE**: **Zone A**: Caen, Clermont-Ferrand, Grenoble, Lyon, Montpellier, Nancy-Metz, Nantes, Rennes, Toulouse;
Zone B: Aix-Marseille, Amiens, Besançon, Dijon, Lille, Limoges, Nice, Orléans-Tours, Poitiers, Reims, Rouen, Strasbourg;
Zone C: Bordeaux, Créteil, Paris, Versailles.

[6] **IRELAND**: School authorities have discretion in the planning of the school year, holidays, etc. However, a primary school must open for a minimum of 183 recognised teaching days and is required to close for July and August. A secondary school must open for a minimum of 167 recognised teaching days.

[7] **ITALY**: According to school autonomy, schools have 2 to 8 days available which are foreseen for the suspension of educational activities.

[8] **LATVIA**: The official summer holiday period is from 01 June to 31 August, except for the 9th and 12 classes (general secondary education), when summer holidays start after final examinations taking place in June.
For the 1st class, Education Institution in agreement with the founder allows additional holidays of 1 week in February.

[9] **LITHUANIA**: Subject to the school council's approval, additional school holidays may be allocated to pupils of grades 1 to 5, provided the mandatory number of 170 school days is respected.

[10] **NETHERLANDS**: Dates for the summer holidays are decided by the Ministry; the holiday period is staggered over 3 regions (compulsory dates for all schools); all other holidays are recommended by the Ministry.

School year 2005/2006

	Primary education (2006)	**General secondary education (2006)**
North region	22 July-03 September	15 July-03 September
Central region	08 July-20 August	08 July-27 August
South region	01 July-13 August	01 July-20 August

The **administrative** school year runs from **01 August 2005 to 31 July 2006**, the summer holiday 2006 being considered as the summer holiday for the school year 2005/2006.

[11] **AUSTRIA**: B•Burgenland, N•Niederösterreich; W•Wien; K•Kärnten; O•Oberösterreich; S•Salzburg; St•Steiermark; T•Tirol; V•Vorarlberg.
4 to 5 additional days may be allocated as a holiday each academic year.

[12] **POLAND**: Winter Holidays - 2006:

16-29 January	Łódzkie, Mazowieckie, Opolskie, Zachodniopomorskie
23 January-05 February	Podlaskie
30 January-12 February	Lubelskie, Podkarpackie, Pomorskie, Śląskie, Warmińsko-Mazurskie
13-26 February	Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Lubuskie, Małopolskie, Świętokrzyskie, Wielkopolskie

[13] **SLOVENIA**: Winter/Carnival: Ljubljana and Maribor regions: 28 February-06 March; other regions: 21-27 February.

[14] **SLOVAKIA**:

20 February-24 February	Bratislava, Nitra, Trnava
27 February-03 March	Prešov, Košice
06-10 March	Banska Bystrica, žilina, Trenčin

[15] In **FINLAND**, Independence day, Epiphany and 1 May are deducted from the total number of school days if they are on any weekday other than Saturday. In the 2005/06 school year, all these days are on weekdays other than Saturday, so there will be 187 school days in all. School holidays may differ within one municipality so that pupils in different schools may have their school holidays at different times.

[16] **SWEDEN**: The exact dates vary between the municipalities. There is a total of 178 schooldays and around 5 extra days when teachers work or undergo training and the students have no classes.

[17] In **ENGLAND and WALES**, schools must be open for at least 380 half day sessions each school year. The dates of school terms are not fixed nationally; they are set, depending on the legal category of the school, by the local education authority (LEAs) or school governing body. Although school holidays generally cover the same core periods, exact dates may vary between schools and authorities. There is currently some movement towards the adoption of a standard school year, which would be consistent year on year. A number of LEAs began to introduce this from 2004/05 and some are working towards introducing this model from 2005/06. However, the decision to adopt this new model remains at the level of the LEA or

school governing body. The pattern of terms and holidays for the standard school year is two approximately seven-week terms before Christmas with a two week break between them, followed by four approximately six-week terms with a break around the first two weeks of April, irrespective of the timing of Easter.
*School holidays in England and Wales are planned to take into account and cover other national public holidays.

[18] In **NORTHERN IRELAND**, schools must be open for 190 days a year. The dates of school terms are not fixed nationally; they are set, depending on the legal category of the school, by the Education and Library Board or school governing body. Therefore school holidays may differ between boards and schools. The five Education and Library Boards, encouraged by the Department of Education, have set up a harmonisation scheme, which sets the core holiday dates on which no services (school transport and school meals) are provided. Schools do not have to set holidays within these dates, but they are strongly advised to do so. In addition, for the 2005/06 school year, schools may allocate up to four 'School Development Days' from within the 190 days. These four days are devoted to staff development and school improvement and the school is closed to pupils.

[19] **UK-SCOTLAND**: School holidays are not fixed nationally, but by local education authorities, and may vary from one authority to another. Some schools start on Monday 09 January, some will have an in-service on Monday and students will return on the Tuesday.

[20] **ICELAND**: Autumn, Christmas, Winter and Spring holidays can vary on compulsory level according to a change in the compulsory school act from 2001.
Pupils' holidays over the school year are never shorter than 15 weeks.

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

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AUSTRIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education School year 2005/06	
Starting date 2005	05 September: Wien, Niederösterreich, Burgenland 12 September: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg
Autumn 2005	-
Christmas/New Year 2005/06	2 weeks (24 December - 07January)
Winter/Carnival 2006	1 week 06 February - 11 February: Niederösterreich, Wien 13 February - 18 February: Burgenland, Kärnten, Salzburg, Tirol, Vorarlberg 20 February - 25 February: Oberösterreich, Steiermark
Spring/Easter 2006	1 week (08 April - 18 April)
Third term 2006	3 days (03 June - 06 June)
Summer 2006	About 9 weeks 01 July - 02 September: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 08 July - 09 September: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Voralrlberg
Public/religious holidays 2005/06	7 days (26/10; 01/11; 02/11; 08/12; 01/05; 25/05; 15/06) 1 extra religious holiday (Saint – different in each Land) 4 to 5 additional days may be allocated as a holiday each academic year.

Source: Eurydice

BELGIUM (FLEMISH COMMUNITY)

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education
School year 2005/06

Starting date 2005	01 September
Autumn 2005	1 week (31 October - 04 November)
Christmas/New Year 2005/06	2 weeks (26 December - 06 January)
Winter/Carnival 2006	1 week (27 February - 03 March)
Spring/Easter 2006	2 weeks (03 April - 17 April)
Third term 2006	-
Summer 2006	9 weeks (01 July - 31 August)
Public/religious holidays 2005/06	5 public holidays (11/11; 01/05; 25/05; 26/05; 05/06 + 2 extra days)

Source: Eurydice

BELGIUM (FRENCH COMMUNITY)

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education School year 2005/06	
Starting date 2005	1 September
Autumn 2005	1 week (31 October - 04 November)
Christmas/New Year 2005/06	2 weeks (26 December - 06 January)
Winter/Carnival 2006	1 week (27 February - 03 March)
Spring/Easter 2006	2 weeks (03 April - 17 April)
Third term 2006	-
Summer 2006	9 weeks (01 July - 31 August)
Public/religious holidays 2005/06	5 public holidays (27/09; 11/11; 01/05; 25/05; 05/06)

Source: Eurydice

BELGIUM (GERMAN SPEAKING COMMUNITY)

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education
School year 2005/06

Starting date 2005	01 September
Autumn 2005	1 week (31 October - 04 November)
Christmas/New Year 2005/06	2 weeks (26 December - 06 January)
Winter/Carnival 2006	1 week (27 February - 03 March)
Spring/Easter 2006	2 weeks (03 April - 17 April)
Third term 2006	-
Summer 2006	9 weeks (01 July - 31 August)
Public/religious holidays 2005/06	5 public holidays (11/11; 15/11; 01/05; 25/05; 05/06; + 1 extra day)

Source: Eurydice

BULGARIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education
School year 2005/06

Starting date 2005	15 September
Autumn 2005	3 days, only grade I (10 November - 13 November)
Christmas/New Year 2005/06	2 weeks (24 December - 08 January)
Winter/Carnival 2006	3 days (04 February - 07 February)
Spring/Easter 2006	1 week (01April - 09 April) 3 days (22 April - 25 April)
Third term 2006	-
Summer 2006	Not yet available
Public/religious holidays 2005/06	7 days (22/09; 01/11; 03/03; 24/04; 01/05; 24/05; 25/05)

Source: Eurydice

CYPRUS

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education School year 2005/06	
Starting date 2005	Primary: 08 September General secondary: 10 September
Autumn 2005	-
Christmas/New Year 2005/06	2 weeks Primary: 23 December - 06 January General secondary: 24 December - 06 January
Winter/Carnival 2006	-
Spring/Easter 2006	2 weeks (17 April - 30 April)
Third term 2006	-
Summer 2006	Around 10 weeks Primary: 24 June - 03 September General secondary: 01 July - 31 August
Public/religious holidays 2005/06	11 days (01/10; 28/10; 13/11; 30/01; 06/03; 25/03; 01/04; 01/05; 01/06 only primary education; 11/06; 12/06)

Source: Eurydice

CZECH REPUBLIC

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education School year 2005/06	
Starting date 2005	01 September
Autumn 2005	2 days (26 and 27 October)
Christmas/New Year 2005/06	About 1 week (23 December - 02 January)
Winter/Carnival 2006	1 day (03 February)
Spring/Easter 2006	1 week (between 06 February and 19 March depending on the region) Easter 2 days (13 and 14 April)
Third term 2006	-
Summer 2006	9 weeks (01 July - 01 September)
Public/religious holidays 2005/06	6 days (28/09; 28/10; 17/11; 17/04; 01/05; 08/05)

Source: Eurydice

Specification of terms for spring holidays in the Czech Republic	
Term 2006	**Regions**
06-12 February	Praha 1 – 5, Blansko, Brno-město, Brno-venkov, Břeclav, Hodonín, Vyškov, Znojmo, Domažlice, Tachov, Louny, Prostějov, Karviná
13-19 February	Praha 6 – 10, Cheb, Karlovy Vary, Sokolov, Nymburk, Jindřichův Hradec, Litoměřice, Děčín, Přerov, Frýdek-Místek
20-26 February	Kroměříž, Uherské Hradiště, Vsetín, Zlín, Praha-východ, Praha-západ, Mělník, Rakovník, Plzeň-město, Plzeň-sever, Plzeň-jih, Hradec Králové, Teplice, Nový Jičín
27 February-05 March	Česká Lípa, Jablonec nad Nisou, Liberec, Semily, Havlíčkův Brod, Jihlava, Pelhřimov, Třebíč, Žďár nad Sázavou, Kladno, Kolín, Kutná Hora, Písek, Náchod, Bruntál
06-12 March	Mladá Boleslav, Příbram, Tábor, Prachatice, Strakonice, Ústí nad Labem, Chomutov, Most, Jičín, Rychnov nad Kněžnou, Olomouc, Šumperk, Opava, Jeseník
13-19 March	Benešov, Beroun, Rokycany, České Budějovice, Klatovy, Český Krumlov,Trutnov, Pardubice, Chrudim, Svitavy, Ústí nad Orlicí, Ostrava-město

Source: Eurydice

DENMARK

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education School year 2005/06	
Starting date 2005	01 August
Autumn 2005	1 week (15 October - 23 October)
Christmas/New Year 2005/06	1 ½ weeks (21 December - 02 January)
Winter/Carnival 2006	1 week (11 February - 19 February)
Spring/Easter 2006	1 week (08 April - 17 April)
Third term 2006	-
Summer 2006	7 weeks (25 June - 13 August)
Public/religious holidays 2005/06	5 public holidays (01/05 only primary; 12/05; 25/05; 26/05 only primary; 05/06)

Source: Eurydice

Not all schools start at the same date. 01 August is the earliest possible date to start school.

The Ministry of Education issues guidelines to the distribution of holidays. They are not binding. Only the date of the last day of the school year must be complied with, and the school year must consist of 200 school days. - Following new legislation, municipalities are at liberty to decide when to place holidays, although it is expected that many of them will follow the previous schedule. The dates given are a holiday schedule for Århus municipality.

ESTONIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education School year 2005/06	
Starting date 2005	01 September
Autumn 2005	1 week (22 October - 30 October)
Christmas/New Year 2005/06	2 weeks (24 December - 08 January)
Winter/Carnival 2006	-
Spring/Easter 2006	1 week (18 March - 26 March)
Third term 2006	-
Summer 2006	12 ½ weeks (04 June - 31 August)
Public/religious holidays 2005/06	3 days (24/02; 14/04; 01/05)

Source: Eurydice

The Basic Schools and Upper Secondary Schools Act stipulates that an academic year shall start on 01 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 for every school year.

FINLAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education
School year 2005/06

Starting date 2005	Between 11 and 16 August
Autumn 2005	2 to 7 days (between 10 and 28 October)
Christmas/New Year 2005/06	1 to 2 weeks (between 19 December and 08 January)
Winter/Carnival 2006	1 week (between 20 February and 11 March)
Spring/Easter 2006	3 - 4 days (between 13 and 17 April)
Third term 2006	-
Summer 2006	10 - 11 weeks (from 03 June to mid-August)
Public/religious holidays 2005/06	4 days (06/12; 06/01; 01/05; 25/05)

Source: Eurydice

The providers of basis education (municipalities, school boards of private schools) decide on the precise starting date of the school year and other possible short holiday periods, but the date of the last school day, as well as the length of the school year, are fixed. According to the Basic Education Act (628/1998), teachers and pupils have 190 school days in pre-primary, basic and voluntary additional basic education. The General Education Act (629/1998) does not regulate the length of the school year for upper secondary schools, but general education institutions mostly follow the practice of the basic education institutions.

School holidays may differ within one municipality so that pupils in different schools may have their school holidays at different times.

FRANCE

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education School year 2005/06	
Starting date 2005	02 September
Autumn 2005	1 ½ weeks (22 October - 02 November)
Christmas/New Year 2005/06	2 weeks (17 December - 02 January)
Winter/Carnival 2006	2 weeks: 18 February - 05 March (zone A) 11 February - 26 February (zone B) 04 February - 19 February (zone C)
Spring/Easter 2006	2 weeks: 22 April - 08 May (zone A) 15 April - 01 May (zone B) 08 April - 23 April (zone C)
Third term 2006	-
Summer 2006	9 weeks (04 July - 01 September)
Public/religious holidays 2005/06	4 days (11/11; 16/04; 01/05; 25/05)

Source: Eurydice

Zone A: Caen, Clermont-Ferrand, Grenoble, Lyon, Montpellier, Nancy-Metz, Nantes, Rennes, Toulouse.
Zone B: Aix-Marseille, Amiens, Besançon, Dijon, Lille, Limoges, Nice, Orléans-Tours, Poitiers, Reims, Rouen, Strasbourg.
Zone C: Bordeaux, Créteil, Paris, Versailles.
Certain schools have a 4-day-week. Only in these cases will the dates vary. Lessons will start on 23 August 2005 and end on 07 July 2006.

GERMANY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education School year 2005/06	
Starting date 2005	Depending on the regions (between 08 August and 13 September)
Autumn 2005	4 to 12 days (staggered between 04 October and 05 November)
Christmas/New Year 2005/06	7 to 13 days (staggered between 21 December and 07 January)
Winter/Carnival 2006	0 to 12 days (staggered between 30 January and 03 March)
Spring/Easter 2006	4 to 12 days (staggered between 06 March and 22 April)
Third term 2006	0 to 11 days (staggered between 22 May and 17 June)
Summer 2006	6 weeks (staggered between 26 June and 16 September)
Public/religious holidays 2005/06	Up to 10 days, depending on the Land

Source: Eurydice

Specification of terms for starting dates and summer holidays

	BeginningSchool year 2005/06	**Summer holidays 2006**	
		Beginning	**End**
Berlin, Brandenburg	08 August	06 July	19 August
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Schleswig-Holstein	08 August	10 July	19 August
Hamburg	11 August	06 July	16 August
Nordrhein-Westfalen	22 August	26 June	08 August
Bremen, Niedersachsen, Sachsen-Anhalt, Thüringen	25 August	20 July	30 August
Sachsen	29 August	24 July	01 September
Hessen, Rheinland-Pfalz	05 September	17 July	25 August
Saarland	05 September	17 July	26 August
Baden-Württemberg	12 September	03 August	16 September
Bayern	13 September	31 July	11 September

Source: Eurydice

Specification of shorter school holiday periods

Land	Autumn 2005	Christmas / New Year 2005/2006	Winter 2006	Spring / Easter 2006	3rd term 2006
Baden-Württemberg	31 Oct./02 Nov.-04 Nov.	22 December - 05 January	-	13/18 April - 22 April	29 May - 10 June
Bayern	31 October - 05 November	27 December - 05 January	27 February - 03 March	10 April - 22 April	06 June - 17 June
Berlin	04 October - 15 October	22 December - 03 January	30 January - 03 February	10 April - 21 April	26 May
Brandenburg	04 October - 15 October	22 December - 03 January	30 January - 02 February	12 April - 21 April	26 May
Bremen	17 October - 29 October	23 December - 06 January	30 January - 31 January	03 April - 18 April	06 June
Hamburg	04 October - 15 October	23 December - 06 January	-	06 March - 18 March	22 May - 27 May
Hessen	17 October - 28 October	21 December - 07 January	-	10 April - 22 April	-
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	10 October - 15 Oct./01 Nov.	23 December - 03 January	06 February - 18 February	10 April - 19 April	26 May and 02 June - 06 June
Niedersachsen	17 October - 29 October	23 December - 06 January	30 January - 31 January	03 April - 18 April	26 May and 06 June
Nordrhein-Westfalen	04 October - 15 October	24 December - 06 January	-	10 April - 22 April	06 June
Rheinland-Pfalz	24 October - 04 November	22 December - 06 January	-	07 April - 21 April	-
Saarland	19 October - 31 October	23 December - 07 January	23 February - 01 March	10 April - 22 April	-
Sachsen	17 October - 28 October	23 December - 02 January	13 February - 25 February	13 April - 21 April	-
Sachsen-Anhalt	17 October - 22 October	23 December - 05 January	01 February- 10 February	10 April - 13 April	26 May - 02 June
Schleswig-Holstein	04 October - 15 October	22 December - 04 January	-	03 April - 18 April	-
Thüringen	17 October - 29 October	23 December - 02 January	06 February - 10 February	10 April - 21 April	03 June - 06 June

Source: Eurydice

GREECE

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education
School year 2005/06

Starting date 2005	12 September
Autumn 2005	-
Christmas/New Year 2005/06	2 weeks (23 December - 07 January)
Winter/Carnival 2006	-
Spring/Easter 2006	2 weeks (17 April - 28 April)
Third term 2006	-
Summer 2006	Primary: 10 weeks (22 June - 31 August) Secondary: 9 weeks (01 July - 31 August)
Public/religious holidays 2005/06	5 national/religious holidays days (28/10; 30/01; 06/03; 25/03; 12/06) and some holidays of regional character

Source: Eurydice

HUNGARY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education School year 2005/06	
Starting date 2005	01 September
Autumn 2005	1 week (30 October - 06 November)
Christmas/New Year 2005/06	1 ½ weeks (22 December - 02 January)
Winter/Carnival 2006	-
Spring/Easter 2006	1 week (13 April - 18 April)
Third term 2006	-
Summer 2006	11 weeks (15 June - 31 August)
Public/religious holidays 2005/06	3 days (15/03; 01/05; 05/06)

Source: Eurydice

ICELAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education School year 2005/06	
Starting date 2005	Between 22 August and 01 September
Autumn 2005	0 -2 days (usually in the third week of October)
Christmas/New Year 2005/06	2 weeks (21 December - 03 January)
Winter/Carnival 2006	0 - 5 days: primary and lower secondary 0 - 2 days: upper secondary (usually in the third week of February)
Spring/Easter 2006	About 7 days (between 10 and 19 April: primary and lower secondary) (between 10 and 18/19 April: upper secondary)
Third term 2006	-
Summer 2006	11 weeks: primary and lower secondary (between 02 June and 31 August) 13 weeks: upper secondary (between 22 May and 31 August:)
Public/religious holidays 2005/06	3 public holidays (20/04; 01/05; 25/05)

Source: Eurydice

Autumn, Christmas, Winter and Spring holidays can vary on compulsory level according to a change in the compulsory school act from 2001.

Pupils' holidays over the school year are never shorter than 15 weeks.

IRELAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education
School year 2005/06

Starting date 2005	01 September
Autumn 2005	1 week (31 October - 04 November)
Christmas/New Year 2005/06	2 weeks (23 December - 06 January)
Winter/Carnival 2006	Primary: 2 days (16 and 17 February) Secondary: 1 week (13 February - 17 February)
Spring/Easter 2006	Primary and secondary: 1 week (10 April - 21 April)
Third term 2006	-
Summer 2006	Primary: 9 weeks (01 July - 31 August) Secondary: 13 weeks (04 June - 31 August)
Public/religious holidays 2005/06	Around 2 public holidays and some religious holidays

Source: Eurydice

In general, school commences on the 1 September provided it is a weekday. However, to ensure compliance with the agreed arrangements on the standardisation of the school year and the requirement at second level that school provide a minimum of 167 days tuition, it may be necessary, because of particular circumstances arising in the school year 2005/06, that some second level schools commence on the 30 or 31 August 2005.

School authorities have discretion in the planning of the school year, holidays, etc. However, a primary school must open for a minimum of 183 recognised teaching days and is required to close for July and August. A secondary school must open for a minimum of 167 recognised teaching days.

ITALY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education School year 2005/06	
Starting date 2005	Between 12 and 20 September
Autumn 2005	-
Christmas/New Year 2005/06	2 weeks (between 22/24 December and 05/08 January)
Winter/Carnival 2006	1 to 4 days (in and/or February and March depending on the region)
Spring/Easter 2006	4 to 7 days (between 12/13 and 17/19 April depending on the region)
Third term 2006	-
Summer 2006	13 - 14 weeks (between June and September)
Public/religious holidays 2005/06	5 national holidays (01/11; 08/12; 25/04; 01/05; 02/06 and Saints' days depending on the region)

Source: Eurydice

According to school autonomy, schools have 2 to 8 days available, which are foreseen for the suspension of educational activities.

Specification of terms for the beginning and the end of the school year 2005/06

Primary and General secondary education		
	Beginning 2005	**End 2006**
Abruzzo	15 September	10 June
Alto Adige (Bolzano)	12 September	16 June
Basilicata	19 September	10 June
Calabria, Campania	15 September	10 June
Emilia-Romagna	19 September	10 June
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	12 September	08 June
Lazio	15 September	10 June
Liguria	20 September	10 June
Lombardia	12 September	10 June
Marche	12 September	07 June
Molise	12 September	08 June
Piemonte	12 September	10 June
Puglia, Sardegna, Sicilia	19 September	10 June
Toscana	15 September	10 June
Trentino (Trento)	12 September	10 June
Umbria	15 September	10 June
Valle D'Aosta	14 September	08 June
Veneto	19 September	10 June

Source: Eurydice

LATVIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education School year 2005/06	
Starting date 2005	01 September
Autumn 2005	1 week (24 October - 28 October)
Christmas/New Year 2005/06	2 weeks (27 December - 09 January)
Winter/Carnival 2006	-
Spring/Easter 2006	1 week (20 March - 24 March)
Third term 2006	-
Summer 2006	13 weeks (01 June - 31 August)
Public/religious holidays 2005/06	4 days (26/12; 18/11; 01/05; 04/05)

Source: Eurydice

The school year is divided in two semesters: the first from 1 September to 23 December and the second from 10 January to 31 May (or 09 June for the 9th class and 16 June for the 12th class).
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. coldness, strike, emergency situation in school, etc.).

The official summer holiday period is from 01 June to 31 August, except for the 9th and 12th classes (general secondary education), when summer holidays start after final examinations taking place in June.

For the 1st class, Education Institution in agreement with the founder allows additional holidays of 1 week in February).

LIECHTENSTEIN

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education School year 2005/06	
Starting date 2005	17 August
Autumn 2005	2 weeks (01 October - 16 October)
Christmas/New Year 2005/06	2 weeks (24 December - 08 January)
Winter/Carnival 2006	1 week (25 February - 05 March)
Spring/Easter 2006	2 ½ weeks (13 April - 30 April)
Third term 2006	-
Summer 2006	6 weeks (08 July - 20 August)
Public/religious holidays 2005/06	8 public holidays (08/09; 01/11; 08/12; 02/02; 01/05; 25/05; 05/06; 15/06)

Source: Eurydice

LITHUANIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education School year 2005/06	
Starting date 2005	01 September
Autumn 2005	1 week (31 October - 06 November)
Christmas/New Year 2005/06	2 weeks (24 December - 06 January)
Winter/Carnival 2006	-
Spring/Easter 2006	1 week (10 April - 17 April)
Third term 2006	-
Summer 2006	Not shorter than 2 months (July/August)
Public/religious holidays 2005/06	4 days (01/11; 16/02; 11/03; 01/05)

Source: Eurydice

Pupils in the years 1 to 5 can finish only after at least 170 school days, while those in the years 6 to 11 after at least 195 days. These days include the national holidays. Pupils in the last year of upper secondary education finish their lessons on 25 May.

Subject to the school council's approval, additional school holidays may be allocated to pupils of grades 1 to 5, provided the mandatory number of 170 school days is respected.

LUXEMBOURG

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education School year 2005/06	
Starting date 2005	15 September
Autumn 2005	1 week (29 October - 06 November)
Christmas/New Year 2005/06	2 weeks (24 December - 08 January)
Winter/Carnival 2006	1 week (25 February - 05 March)
Spring/Easter 2006	2 weeks (08 April - 23 April)
Third term 2006	1 week (03 June -11 June)
Summer 2006	9 weeks (15 July - 14 September)
Public/religious holidays 2005/06	3 public holidays (01/05; 25/05; 23/06)

Source: Eurydice

MALTA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education
School year 2005/06

Starting date 2005	26 September
Autumn 2005	3 days (01 November - 03 November)
Christmas/New Year 2005/06	2 weeks (23 December - 06 January)
Winter/Carnival 2006	2 days (27 and 28 February)
Spring/Easter 2006	1 week (12 April - 19 April)
Third term 2006	-
Summer 2006	11 weeks (29 June - 14 September)
Public/religious holidays 2005/06	7 days (08/12; 13/12; 10/02; 31/03; 01/05; 07/06; 29/06)

Source: Eurydice

13 to 15 June 2006: Secondary sector schools – oral examinations (annual examinations);
16 to 28 June 2006: Secondary sector schools annual examinations;
26 to 28 June 2006: Primary schools annual examinations.

NETHERLANDS

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education School year 2005/06	
Starting date 2005	**North region**: 05 September (primary and general secondary) **Central region**: 15 August (primary) 22 August (general secondary) **South region**: 22 August (primary) 29 August (general secondary)
Autumn 2005	1 week **Central/South regions**: 15 October - 23 October **North region**: 22 October - 30 October
Christmas/New Year 2005/06	2 weeks (24 December - 08 January)
Winter/Carnival 2006	1 week **North/Central regions**: 18 February - 26 February **South region**: 25 February - 05 March
Spring/Easter 2006	-
Third term 2006	1 week (29 April - 07 May)
Summer 2006	Primary 6 weeks; General secondary 7 weeks **North region**: 22 July - 03 September (primary) 15 July - 03 September (general secondary) **Central region**: 08 July - 20 August (primary) 08 July - 27 August (general secondary) **South region**: 01 July -13 August (primary) 01 July - 20 August (general secondary)
Public/religious holidays 2005/06	3 public holidays (17/04; 25/05; 05/06) 2 national holidays (30/04 and 05/05)

Source: Eurydice

The administrative school year runs from 01 August 2005 to 31 July 2006, the summer holidays 2006 being considered as the summer holidays for the school year 2005/06.

NORWAY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education School year 2005/06	
Starting date 2005	Between 16 and 22 August: primary education Between 17 and 22 August: general secondary education
Autumn 2005	1 week (between 3 and 16 October)
Christmas/New Year 2005/06	1 ½ weeks (22 December - 02 January)
Winter/Carnival 2006	1 week (between 20 February and 04 March)
Spring/Easter 2006	1 week (10 April - 17 April)
Third term 2006	-
Summer 2006	9 weeks (from between 16 and 23 June to between 17 and 23 August)
Public/religious holidays 2005/06	4 occasional holidays (01/05; 17/05; 25/05; 05/06)

Source: Eurydice

The weeks vary between different municipalities and counties, but it is required that the teaching covers a period of at least 38 school weeks and that it takes place within a period of 45 continuous weeks during a school year.

POLAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education School year 2005/06	
Starting date 2005	01 September
Autumn 2005	-
Christmas/New Year 2005/06	1 week (23 December - 01 January)
Winter/Carnival 2006	2 weeks 16 January - 29 January: Łódzkie, Mazowieckie, Opolskie, Zachodniopomorskie 23 January - 05 February: Podlaskie 30 January - 12 February: Lubelskie, Podkarpackie, Pomorskie, Śląskie, Warmińsko-Mazurskie 13 February - 26 February: Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Lubuskie, Małopolskie, Świętokrzyskie, Wielkopolskie
Spring/Easter 2006	4 days (13 April - 18 April)
Third term 2006	-
Summer 2006	9 weeks (01July - 31 August)
Public/religious holidays 2005/06	7 days (01/11; 11/11; 01/05; 02/05; 03/05; 15/06; 16/06)

Source: Eurydice

PORTUGAL

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education School year 2005/06	
Starting date 2005	Staggered between 12 and 16 September
Autumn 2005	-
Christmas/New Year 2005/06	2 weeks (19 December - 30 December)
Winter/Carnival 2006	3 days (27 February - 01 March)
Spring/Easter 2006	10 days (03 April - 17 April)
Third term 2006	-
Summer 2006	9 weeks (23 June - 31 August)
Public/religious holidays 2005/06	8 national holidays (05/10; 01/11; 01/12; 08/12; 28/02; 25/04; 01/05; 10/05)

Source: Eurydice

End of school year for general secondary education: for the 9th and 12th year between 9 and 23 June.

ROMANIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education
School year 2005/06

Starting date 2005	12 September
Autumn 2005	1 week, only primary (31 October - 06 November)
Christmas/New Year 2005/06	2 weeks (24 December - 08 January)
Winter/Carnival 2006	1 week (04 February - 12 February)
Spring/Easter 2006	1 week (15 April - 24 April)
Third term 2006	-
Summer 2006	11 weeks (17 June - 31 August)
Public/religious holidays 2005/06	2 days (1/12; 01/05)

Source: Eurydice

Beginning of the school year: In exceptional situations, depending on local climatic conditions and school's specificity, the structure of the school year can be modified at the request of schools approved by the local educational authorities (County School Inspectorates). Approval is given if the number of 36 weeks and 177 school days is maintained and all pupils may participate, without restrictions in national examinations

SLOVAKIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education School year 2005/06	
Starting date 2005	01 September
Autumn 2005	3 days (28 October - 01 November)
Christmas/New Year 2005/06	7 days (23 December - 02 January)
Winter/Carnival 2006	1 day (03 February)
Spring/Easter 2006	**Spring holidays** 1 week 20 February - 24 February: Bratislava, Nitra, Trnava 27 February - 03 March: Prešov, Košice 06 March - 10 March: Banska Bystrica, žilina, Trenčin **Easter holidays** 4 days (13 April - 18 April)
Third term 2006	-
Summer 2006	9 weeks (01 July - 31 August)
Public/religious holidays 2005/06	7 days (01/09; 15/09; 01/11; 17/11; 06/01; 01/05; 08/05)

Source: Eurydice

SLOVENIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education School year 2005/06	
Starting date 2005	01 September
Autumn 2005	1 week (31 October - 06 November)
Christmas/New Year 2005/06	1week (26 December - 02 January)
Winter/Carnival 2006	1 week 28 February - 06 March: Ljubljana and Maribor regions 21 February - 27 February: other regions
Spring/Easter 2006	1 week (27 April - 02 May)
Third term 2006	-
Summer 2006	10 weeks (25 June - 31 August)
Public/religious holidays 2005/06	2 days (08/02; 17/04)

Source: Eurydice

SPAIN

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education
School year 2005/06

Starting date 2005	Primary: between 01 and 15 September General secondary: between 01 and 19 September
Autumn 2005	-
Christmas/New Year 2005/06	2 weeks (between 22 December and 08 January)
Winter/Carnival 2006	Usually 2 or 3 days (between 25 and 28 February, depending on the Autonomous Community)
Spring/Easter 2006	About 1 week (staggered between 7 and 24 April, depending on the Autonomous Community)
Third term 2006	-
Summer 2006	Primary: 11 weeks (starting between mid/late June and ending mid-September) General secondary: 12 weeks (starting between mid/late June and ending mid-September)
Public/religious holidays 2005/06	Around 7 public holidays, depending on the Autonomous Community

Source: Eurydice

Specification of terms for the beginning and the end of the school year 2005/06

	Primary education		General secondary education	
	Beginning 2005	**End 2006**	**Beginning 2005**	**End 2006**
Andalucía	15 September	22 June	15 September	22 June
Aragón	12 September[1]	21 June[1]	13 September	21 June
Asturias	12 September	23 June	13 September	23 June
Baleares	14 September	23 June	16 September	26 June
Canarias	07 September	22 June	12 September	22 June
Cantabria	08 September[1]	20 June[1]	16 September	27 June
Castilla y León	13 September[1]	23 June[1]	19 September	23 June
Castilla-La Mancha	Never before 01 September	Never after 30 June	Never before 01 September	Never after 30 June
Cataluña	12 September	22 June	12 September	22 June
Extremadura	12 September	23 June	12 September 19 September advanced vocational training cycles	23 June
Galicia	12 September	26 June	19 September	26 June
Madrid	12 September	23 June	14 September	23 June
Murcia	12 September[1]	26 June[1]	14 September	28 June
Navarra[2]	13 September	21 June	15 September	23 June
País Vasco[3]	01 September	30 June	01 September	30 June
C.Valenciana	09 September[1]	21 June[1]	16 September	22 June
La Rioja	07 September	20 June	16 September	23 June

[1] Date for the first cycle of Compulsory Secondary Education when it takes place at a Primary School.

[2] Dates for the first cycle of Compulsory Secondary Education when it takes place at a Primary School: beginning not later than
15 September and ending not before 24 June.

[3] Taking into account the beginning and ending dates and ensuring the minimum established timetable, education centers are free to establish their own calendar

Source: Eurydice

Summer holidays start the day after the lessons are over and vary depending on the Autonomous Community.

SWEDEN

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education School year 2005/06	
Starting date 2005	Between 15 and 29 August
Autumn 2005	1 week (between 10 October and 11 November)
Christmas/New Year 2005/06	About 3 weeks (between 16/22 December and 09/11 January)
Winter/Carnival 2006	1 week (between 13 and 24 February)
Spring/Easter 2006	1 week (between 20 March and 21 April)
Third term 2006	-
Summer 2006	About 10 weeks (between 08/16 June and end of August)
Public/religious holidays 2005/06	4 days (01/05; 25/05; 26/05; 06/06)

Source: Eurydice

Starting date: The exact days vary on regional and municipality levels.

Holidays: The exact dates vary between the municipalities. There is a total of 178 schooldays and around 5 extra days when teachers work or undergo training and the students have no classes

TURKEY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education School year 2005/06	
Starting date 2005	12 September
Autumn 2005	½ day (28 October)
Christmas/New Year 2005/06	-
Winter/Carnival 2006	2 weeks (16 January - 29 January)
Spring/Easter 2006	1 day (24 April)
Third term 2006	-
Summer 2006	12 weeks (12 June - 12 September)
Public/religious holidays 2005/06	2 periods of religious holidays (period 03 to 06 November and period 10 to 15 January)

Source: Eurydice

For primary education and general secondary education, a school year must be not less than 180 days. A school year runs 9 months from September to June.

A school year is divided into two parts: at the end of a semester, there is a two-weeks' 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.

UNITED KINGDOM – England and Wales

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education School year 2005/06	
Starting date 2005	First week of September
Autumn 2005	1 week (24 October - 28 October)
Christmas/New Year 2005/06	2 weeks (21 December - 03 January)
Winter/Carnival 2006	1 week (13 February - 17 February or 20 February - 24 February)
Spring/Easter 2006	2 weeks (03 April - 14 April or 10 April - 21 April)
Third term 2006	1 week (29 May - 02 June)
Summer 2006	6 weeks (between 24 or 26 July and the first week of September)
Public/religious holidays 2005/06	1 day (01/05)

Source: Eurydice

In **ENGLAND and WALES**, schools must be open for at least 380 half day sessions each school year. The dates of school terms are not fixed nationally; they are set, depending on the legal category of the school, by the local education authority (LEAs) or school governing body. Although school holidays generally cover the same core periods, exact dates may vary between schools and authorities. There is currently some movement towards the adoption of a standard school year, which would be consistent year on year. A number of LEAs began to introduce this from 2004/05 and some are working towards introducing this model from 2005/06. However, the decision to adopt this new model remains at the level of the LEA or school governing body. The pattern of terms and holidays for the standard school year is two approximately seven-week terms before Christmas with a two week break between them, followed by four approximately six-week terms with a break around the first two weeks of April, irrespective of the timing of Easter.

School holidays in England and Wales are planned to take into account and cover other national public holidays.

UNITED KINGDOM – Northern Ireland

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education School year 2005/06	
Starting date 2005	First week of September
Autumn 2005	2 days (31 October and 01 November)
Christmas/New Year 2005/06	2 weeks (22 December - 03 January)
Winter/Carnival 2006	2 days (20 and 21 February)
Spring/Easter 2006	1 week (14 April - 21 April)
Third term 2006	-
Summer 2006	9 weeks (between 01 July and 31 August)
Public/religious holidays 2005/06	1 public day (01/05); up to 7 optional closure days

Source: Eurydice

In **NORTHERN IRELAND**, schools must be open for 190 days a year. The dates of school terms are not fixed nationally; they are set, depending on the legal category of the school, by the Education and Library Board or school governing body. Therefore school holidays may differ between boards and schools. The five Education and Library Boards, encouraged by the Department of Education, have set up a harmonisation scheme, which sets the core holiday dates on which no services (school transport and school meals) are provided. Schools do not have to set holidays within these dates, but they are strongly advised to do so. In addition, for the 2005/06 school year, schools may allocate up to four 'School Development Days' from within the 190 days. These four days are devoted to staff development and school improvement and the school is closed to pupils.

UNITED KINGDOM – Scotland

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education School year 2005/06	
Starting date 2005	Mid-August
Autumn 2005	From 1 to 2 weeks (between 01 and 21 October)
Christmas/New Year 2005/06	2 weeks (21 December - 09 January)
Winter/Carnival 2006	1 to 7 days (between 09 and 17 February)
Spring/Easter 2006	2 weeks (between 31 March and 24 April)
Third term 2006	-
Summer 2006	7 weeks (from end June to mid-August)
Public/religious holidays 2005/06	Up to 3 days

Source: Eurydice

The earliest **start date** for the school year 2005/06 is 15 August 2005. There are no differences between primary and secondary schools, however, there are variances across the 32 local education authorities.

In Scotland, pupils attend school for 190 days a year.

School holidays are not fixed nationally, but by local education authorities, and may vary from one authority to another. Some schools start on Monday 09 January, some will have an in-service on Monday and students will return on the Tuesday.