

## Organisation of school time in Europe

Primary and general secondary education

2009/10 school year

# AUSTRIA

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2009/10 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	07 September 2009: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 14 September 2009: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg	07 September 2009: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 14 September 2009: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg
<b>End of students' school year</b>	02 July 2010: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 09 July 2010: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg	02 July 2010: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 09 July 2010: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	1 week 27 – 31 October 2009: Vorarlberg	1 week 27 – 31 October 2009: Vorarlberg
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks 24 December 2009 – 06 January 2010	2 weeks 24 December 2009 – 06 January 2010
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	1 week 01 – 06 February 2010: Niederösterreich, Wien 08 – 13 February 2010: Burgenland, Kärnten, Salzburg, Tirol, Vorarlberg 15 – 20 February 2010: Oberösterreich, Steiermark	1 week 01 – 06 February 2010: Niederösterreich, Wien 08 – 13 February 2010: Burgenland, Kärnten, Salzburg, Tirol, Vorarlberg 15 – 20 February 2010: Oberösterreich, Steiermark
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	1 week 27 March – 06 April 2010	1 week 27 March – 06 April 2010
<b>Third term</b>	4 days 22 May – 25 May 2010	4 days 22 May – 25 May 2010
<b>Summer</b>	About 9 weeks 03 July – 04 September 2010: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 10 July – 11 September 2010: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg	About 9 weeks 03 July – 04 September 2010: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 10 July – 11 September 2010: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	26 October 2009 01 November 2009 (Sunday) 02 November 2009 08 December 2009 01 May 2010 13 May 2010 03 June 2010 1 extra religious holiday (Saint – different in each <i>Land</i> )	26 October 2009 01 November 2009 (Sunday) 02 November 2009 08 December 2009 01 May 2010 13 May 2010 03 June 2010 1 extra religious holiday (Saint – different in each <i>Land</i> )
<b>Starting/End date of teachers' school year</b>	The teachers' school year is the same as the pupils' school year	The teachers' school year is the same as the pupils' school year

Source: Eurydice

## BELGIUM (FLEMISH COMMUNITY)

### Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2009/10 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	01 September 2009	01 September 2009
<b>End of students' school year</b>	30 June 2010	30 June 2010
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	1 week 2 November – 8 November 2009	1 week 2 November – 8 November 2009
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks 21 December 2009 – 03 January 2010	2 weeks 21 December 2009 – 03 January 2010
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	1 week 15 February – 21 February 2010	1 week 15 February – 21 February 2010
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	2 weeks 05 April – 18 April 2010	2 weeks 05 April – 18 April 2010
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	9 weeks 01 July – 31 August 2009	9 weeks 01 July – 31 August 2009
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	5 days 11 November 2009 01 May 2010 13 – 14 May 2010 24 May 2010	5 days 11 November 2009 01 May 2010 13 – 14 May 2010 24 May 2010
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	01 September 2009	01 September 2009
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	30 June 2009	30 June 2009

Source: Eurydice

## BELGIUM (FRENCH COMMUNITY)

### Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2009/10 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	01 September 2009	01 September 2009
<b>End of students' school year</b>	30 June 2010	30 June 2010
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	1 week 2 November – 6 November 2009	1 week 2 November – 6 November 2009
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks 21 December 2009 – 01 January 2010	2 weeks 21 December 2009 – 01 January 2010
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	1 week 15 February – 19 February 2010	1 week 15 February – 19 February 2010
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	2 weeks 05 April – 16 April 2010	2 weeks 05 April – 16 April 2010
<b>Third term</b>	–	–
<b>Summer</b>	9 weeks 01 July – 31 August 2010	9 weeks 01 July – 31 August 2010
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	4 days 11 November 2009 13 May 2010 14 May 2010 24 May 2010	4 days 11 November 2009 13 May 2010 14 May 2010 24 May 2010
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	01 September 2009	01 September 2009
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	30 June 2010	30 June 2010

Source: Eurydice

## BELGIUM (GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY)

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2009/10 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	01 September 2009	01 September 2009
<b>End of students' school year</b>	30 June 2009	30 June 2009
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	1 week 02 November – 06 November 2009	1 week 02 November – 06 November 2009
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks 21 December 2009 – 02 January 2010	2 weeks 22 December 2009 – 02 January 2010
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	1 week 15 February – 19 February 2010	1 week 15 February – 19 February 2010
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	2 weeks 05 April – 16 April 2010	2 weeks 05 April – 16 April 2010
<b>Third term</b>	–	–
<b>Summer</b>	9 weeks 01 July – 31 August 2010	9 weeks 01 July – 31 August 2010
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	6 days 11 November 2010 01 May 2010 13 May 2010 24 May 2010 + 2 days	6 days 11 November 2010 01 May 2010 13 May 2010 01 June 2010 + 2 days
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	01 September 2009	01 September 2009*
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	30 June 2010	30 June 2010

Source: Eurydice

### 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 min. of 180 and a max. of 184 days of schooldays, for 2009/10, the number of days will be 182.

## BULGARIA

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2009/10 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	15 September 2009 (official date)	15 September 2009 (official date)
<b>End of students' school year</b>	Grade I: 21 May 2010 Grade II – IV: 31 May 2010 Grade V - VIII: 15 June 2010 Grade VIII*: 30 June 2010	Grade VIII*: 30 June 2010 Grade IX, X, XI : 30 June 2010 Grade XII: 07 May 2010
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	3 days 5 – 9 November 2009 (Grade I)	-
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	24 December 2009 – 3 January 2010	24 December 2009 – 3 January 2010
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	29 January 2010 – 31 January 2010 (a day off between the two school terms)	29 January 2010 – 31 January 2010 (a day off between the two school terms)
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	01 April – 11 April 2010	1 April 2010 – 11 April 2010 (Grade – II - XI) 1 April 2010 – 06 April 2010 (Grade XII)
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	<b>Grade I:</b> 21 May 2010– 15 September 2010 <b>Grade II – IV:</b> 31 May – 15 September 2010 <b>Grade V – VIII:</b> 15 June – 15 September 2010 <b>Grade VIII*:</b> 30 June – 15 September 2010	<b>Grade IX – XI:</b> 30 June – 15 September 2010
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	2 holidays 01 November 2009 25 May 2010 (The official celebrations on the occasion of the Day of Slavonic literature and culture)	2 holidays 01 November 2009 25 May 2010 (The official celebrations on the occasion of the Day of Slavonic literature and culture)
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	See Additional Notes	See Additional Notes
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	See Additional Notes	See Additional Notes

Source: Eurydice

## BULGARIA (CONTINUED)

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### **Additional notes:**

**Grade VIII\*** (18 study weeks) is made up of students who have been admitted, after completed VII grade, 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 not at central level. The decision with this regard is left to the schools' own discretion. The school head is responsible for setting and drawing up of their school's timetable. The most common situation is when the 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 the 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 holiday period for pupils.

## CYPRUS

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2009/10 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	10 September 2009	Between 1-10 September 2009 (see additional notes)
<b>End of students' school year</b>	16 June 2010	(see additional notes)
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	-	-
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks 23 December 2009 – 6 January 2010	2 weeks 24 December 2009 – 06 January 2010
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	-	-
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	2 weeks 29 March 2010 – 9 April 2010	2 weeks 29 March 2009 – 9 April 2010
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	11 weeks 17 June 2010 – 8 September 2010	9 weeks 01 July 2010 – 31 August 2010
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	1/10, 28/10, 13/11, 30/1, 15/2, 25/3, 1/4, 1/5, 13/5, 24/5, 11/06	01/10, 28/10, 13/11, 30/1, 15/02, 25/03, 01/04, 01/05, 24/05, 11/06
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	7 September 2009	01 September 2009
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	18 June 2010	30 June 2010

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

### Secondary Education

Classes may begin on any day during the first ten days of September, the exact date in each year is defined by the Minister of Education and Culture. For the Lower Secondary Education classes may end on any day during the first ten days of June, and for the Upper Secondary Education during the last ten days of May. The exact date is again defined by the Minister.

For the General secondary education, the end of the school year comes at the end of June and includes exams, correction of papers, result announcements.

### Teachers

The official school year is longer for teachers in both primary and secondary education as it includes registration days, sorting out of schools and classes and exam periods.

In primary and secondary general education according to the law, the official school year is from 01 September 2009 until the 31 August 2010.

Teachers however, need to be at school from the 01 September 2009 until the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2010 for school work for secondary education and from the 07 September 2009 until the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2010 for primary education.

## CZECH REPUBLIC

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2009/10 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	01 September 2009	01 September 2009
<b>End of students' school year</b>	30 June 2010	30 June 2010
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	2 days 29 and 30 October 2009	2 days 29 and 30 October 2009
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks 23 December 2009 – 01 January 2010	2 weeks 23 December 2009 – 01 January 2010
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	1 day 29 January 2010	1 day 29 January 2010
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	1 week between 01 February and 14 March 2010 depending on the region  2 days 01 and 02 April 2010	1 week between 01 February and 14 March 2010 depending on the region  2 days 01 and 02 April 2010
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	9 weeks 01 July – 31 August 2010	9 weeks 01 July – 31 August 2010
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	6 days 28 September 2009 28 October 2009 17 November 2009 05 April 2010 01 May 2010 08 May 2010	6 days 28 September 2009 28 October 2009 17 November 2009 05 April 2010 01 May 2010 08 May 2010
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	Not specified	Not specified
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	Not specified	Not specified

Source: Eurydice

## CZECH REPUBLIC (CONTINUED)

SPECIFICATION OF TERMS FOR SPRING HOLIDAYS	
Term 2010	Regions
01 – 07 February	Kroměříž, Uherské Hradiště, Vsetín, Zlín, Praha-východ, Praha-západ, Mělník, Rakovník, Plzeň-město, Plzeň-sever, Plzeň-jih, Hradec Králové, Teplice, Nový Jičín
08 – 14 February	Česká Lípa, Jablonec nad Nisou, Liberec, Semily, Havlíčkův Brod, Jihlava, Pelhřimov, Třebíč, Žďár nad Sázavou, Kladno, Kolín, Kutná Hora, Písek, Náchod, Bruntál
15 – 21 February	Mladá Boleslav, Příbram, Tábor, Prachatice, Strakonice, Ústí nad Labem, Chomutov, Most, Jičín, Rychnov nad Kněžnou, Olomouc, Šumperk, Opava, Jeseník
22 – 28 February	Benešov, Beroun, Rokycany, České Budějovice, Český Krumlov, Klatovy, Trutnov, Pardubice, Chrudim, Svitavy, Ústí nad Orlicí, Ostrava-město
01 – 07 March	Praha 1 až 5, Blansko, Brno-město, Brno-venkov, Břeclav, Hodonín, Vyškov, Znojmo, Domažlice, Tachov, Louny, Prostějov, Karviná
08 – 14 March	Praha 6 až 10, Cheb, Karlovy Vary, Sokolov, Nymburk, Jindřichův Hradec, Litoměřice, Děčín, Přerov, Frýdek-Místek

Source: Eurydice

### Additional notes:

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.

## DENMARK

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2009/10 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary and lower secondary education (<i>Folkeskole</i>)</b>	<b>General secondary education (<i>Gymnasium</i>)</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	10 August 2009	10 August 2009
<b>End of students' school year</b>	25 June 2010	25 June 2010
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	10 – 18 October 2009	10 – 18 October 2009
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	23 December 2009 – 3 January 2010	23 December 2009 – 3 January 2010
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	13 – 21 February 2010	13 – 21 February 2010
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	27 March – 5 April 2010	27 March – 5 April 2010
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	26 June – 10 August 2010	26 June 2010 – ?
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	30 April 2010 13 – 14 May 2010 22 – 24 May 2010	30 April 2010 13 May 2010 22 – 24 May 2010
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	Not determined at central level – differs at the various schools / institutions. In general the teachers start a few days before the pupils/students.	Not determined at central level – differs at the various schools / institutions. In general the teachers start a few days before the pupils/students.
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	Not determined at central level. Usually the teachers' school year follows that of the pupils/students.	Not determined at central level. Usually the teachers' school year follows that of the pupils/students.

Source: Eurydice

### Additional notes:

The abovementioned dates for the *Folkeskole* are a sample from the municipality of Aarhus, as the dates vary slightly on a national scale. E.g. the winter/carnival holiday thus depends on the municipality which usually decides whether the holiday is in week 7 or 8. The dates for upper secondary education are taken from Ringkjøbing Gymnasium.

*Folkeskole*, that is schools offering comprehensive primary and lower secondary education are at liberty 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.

## ESTONIA

### Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2009/10 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	01 September 2009	01 September 2009
<b>End of students' school year</b>	31 August 2010	31 August 2010
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	1 week 24 October – 01 November 2009	1 week 24 October – 01 November 2009
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks 24 December 2009 – 10 January 2010	2 weeks 24 December 2009 – 10 January 2010
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	-	-
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	1 week 20 March – 28 March 2010	1 week 20 March – 28 March 2010
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	12 ½ weeks 05 June – 31 August 2010	12 ½ weeks 05 June – 31 August 2010
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	2 days 24 February 2010 02 April 2010	2 days 24 February 2010 02 April 2010
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	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.	
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>		

Source: Eurydice

#### **Additional notes:**

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 2009/10 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	Between 10 and 18 August 2009	Between 10 and 18 August 2009
<b>End of students' school year</b>	4 June 2010	4 June 2010
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	1-7 days in October 2009	1-7 days in October 2009
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	1-2 weeks between 21 December 2009 and 06 January 2010	1-2 weeks between 21 December 2009 and 06 January 2010
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	1 week between 22 February and 14 March 2010	1 week between 22 February and 14 March 2010
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	4 days between 2 and 5 April 2010	4 days between 2 and 5 April 2010
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	10-11 weeks between 4 June to mid-August 2010	10-11 weeks between 4 June to mid-August 2010
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	6 January 2010 (Epiphany) 13 May 2010 (Ascension day)	6 January 2010 (Epiphany) 13 May 2010 (Ascension day)
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	between 08 and 16 August 2009 <sup>(1)</sup>	between 08 and 16 August 2009 <sup>(1)</sup>
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	4 June 2010	4 June 2010

Source: Eurydice

#### 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 2009/10 the number of school days will consequently be 189.

<sup>(1)</sup> 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 the pupils' holidays. However, teachers have their planning and INSET obligations, which they have to do during both during the school year and outside the school year.

## FRANCE

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2009/10 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	02 September 2009	02 September 2009
<b>End of students' school year</b>	02 July 2010	02 July 2010
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	1 ½ week 24 October – 05 November 2009	1 ½ week 24 October – 05 November 2009
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks 19 December 2009 – 04 January 2010	2 weeks 19 December 2009 – 04 January 2010
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	2 weeks – 2010 13 February – 01 March (zone A) 6 February – 22 March (zone B) 20 February – 08 March (zone C)	2 weeks – 2010 13 February – 01 March (zone A) 6 February – 22 March (zone B) 20 February – 08 March (zone C)
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	2 weeks – 2010 10 April – 26 April (zone A) 03 April – 19 May (zone B) 17 April – 03 May (zone C)	2 weeks – 2010 10 April – 26 April (zone A) 03 April – 19 May (zone B) 17 April – 03 May (zone C)
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	9 weeks 02 July – 01 September 2010	9 weeks 02 July – 01 September 2010
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	3 days 11 November 2009 01 May 2010 08 May 2010	3 days 11 November 2009 01 May 2010 08 May 2010
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	01 September 2009	01 September 2009
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	02 July 2010	02 July 2010

Source: Eurydice

**Additional notes:**

**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

## GERMANY

### Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2009/10 school year

<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	01 August 2009 begin of official school year (for details see table I)
<b>End of students' school year</b>	31 July 2010 end of official school year (for details see table I)
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	5 to 12 days staggered between 05 October and 07 November 2009 (for details see table II)
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	10 to 18 days staggered between 18 December 2009 and 09 January 2010 (for details see table II)
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	0 to 13 days staggered between 29 January and 20 February 2010 (for details see table II)
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	5 to 16 days staggered between 08 March and 17 April 2010 (for details see table II)
<b>Third term</b>	0 to 11 days staggered between 14 May and 05 June 2010 (for details see table II)
<b>Summer</b>	6 weeks staggered between 24 June and 13 September 2010 (for details see table I)
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	Up to 10 days, depending on the <i>Land</i>
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	01 August 2009 (official date)
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	31 July 2010 (official date)

Source: Eurydice

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

	<b>Beginning of students' school year 2009/10</b>	<b>End of students' school year 2009/10</b>	<b>Summer holidays 2010</b>
Bremen, Niedersachsen, Sachsen-Anhalt, Thüringen	06 August 2009	23 June 2010	24 June – 04 August
Sachsen	10 August 2009	25 June 2010	28 June – 06 August
Nordrhein-Westfalen	17 August 2009	14 July 2010	15 July – 27 August
Rheinland-Pfalz	24 August 2009	02 July 2010	05 July – 13 August
Hessen, Saarland	24 August 2009	02 July 2010	05 July – 14 August
Hamburg	27 August 2009	07 July 2010	08 July – 18 August
Berlin, Brandenburg	31 August 2009	07 July 2010	08 July – 21 August
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Schleswig-Holstein	31 August 2009	09 July 2010	12 July – 21 August
Baden-Württemberg	14 September 2009	28 July 2010	29 July – 10 August
Bayern	15 September 2009	30 July 2010	02 Aug. – 13 September

## GERMANY (CONTINUED)

**TABLE II: Specification of shorter holiday periods**

Land	Autumn 2009	Christmas / New Year 2009/10	Winter 2010	Spring / Easter 2010	3 <sup>rd</sup> term 2010
Baden- Württemberg	26 Oct.-30 Oct.	23 Dec.-09 Jan.	-	06 April-10 April	25 May-05 June
Bayern	02 Nov.-07 Nov.	24 Dec.-05 Jan.	15 Febr.-20 Feb.	29 March-10 April	25 May-05 June
Berlin	10 Oct.-30 Oct.	21 Dec.-02 Jan.	01 Febr.-06 Feb.	31 March-10 April	14 May-25 May
Brandenburg	10 Oct.-30 Oct.	21 Dec.-02 Jan.	01 Febr.-06 Feb.	31 March-10 April	-
Bremen	05 Oct.-17 Oct.	23 Dec.-06 Jan.	01 Febr.-02 Feb.	19 March-06 April	25 May
Hamburg	12 Oct.-24 Oct.	21 Dec.-31 Dec.	29 January	08 March-20 March	14 May-22 May
Hessen	12 Oct.-24 Oct.	22 Dec.-09 Jan.	-	29 March-10 April	-
Mecklenburg- Vorpommern	26 Oct.-30 Oct.	21 Dec.-02 Jan.	06 Febr.-20 Feb.	29 March-07 April	21 May-22 May
Niedersachsen	05 Oct.-17 Oct.	23 Dec.-06 Jan.	01 Febr.+ 02 Feb.	19 March-06 April	14 May/25 May
Nordrhein- Westfalen	12 Oct.-24 Oct.	24 Dec.-06 Jan.	-	27 March-10 April	25 May
Rheinland-Pfalz	12 Oct.-23 Oct.	21 Dec.-05 Jan.	-	26 March-09 April	-
Saarland	19 Oct.-31 Oct.	18 Dec.-02 Jan.	15 Febr.-20 Feb.	29 March-10 April	-
Sachsen	12 Oct.-24 Oct.	23 Dec.-02 Jan.	08 Febr.-20 Feb.	01 April-10 April	14 May
Sachsen-Anhalt	12 Oct.-17 Oct.	21 Dec.-05 Jan.	08 Febr.-13 Feb.	29 March-09 April	14 May-22 May
Schleswig- Holstein	12 Oct.-24 Oct.	21 Dec.-06 Jan.	-	03 April-17 April	-
Thüringen	12 Oct.-24 Oct.	19 Dec.-02 Jan.	01 Febr.-06 Feb.	29 March-04 April	-

Source: Eurydice

**Additional notes:**

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.

## GREECE

### Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2009/2010 year

	Primary education	General secondary education
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	11 September 2009	11 September 2009
<b>End of students' school year</b>	15 June 2009	The date in question (usually around the 20 May) is subject to annual arrangement both for the lower and the upper education
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	-	-
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks 24 December 2009 – 07 January 2010	2 weeks 24 December 2009 – 07 January 2010
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>		
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	2 weeks 29/03/10 – 09/04/2010	2 weeks 29/03/10 – 09/04/2010
<b>Third term</b>		
<b>Summer</b>	± 12 weeks 16 June – 10 September 2010	± 10 weeks 01 July – 10 September 2010
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	7 national/religious holidays 28 October 2009 17 November 2009 30 January 2010 15 February 2010 25 March 2010 01 May 2010 24 May 2010 and some holidays of Regional character	7 national/religious holidays 28 October 2009 17 November 2009 30 January 2010 15 February 2010 25 March 2010 01 May 2010 24 May 2010 and some holidays of Regional character
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	01 September 2009	01 September 2009
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	22 June 2010	01 July 2010

Source: Eurydice

#### Additional notes:

Official School Year: 01 September 2009 to 31 August 2010

Didactic Year: 11 September 2009 to 15 June 2010 (Primary Education)

11 September 2009 to 30 June 2010 (Secondary Education)

# HUNGARY

## Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2009/10 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	01 September 2009	01 September 2009
<b>End of students' school year</b>	15 June 2010	15 June 2010
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	<i>9 days with 2 weekends</i> 23 October – 1 November 2009	<i>9 days with 2 weekends</i> 23 October – 1 November 2009
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	<i>12 days with 2 weekends</i> 23 December 2009 – 03 January 2010	<i>12 days with 2 weekends</i> 23 December 2009 – 03 January 2010
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>		
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	<i>5 days with one weekend</i> 02 April – 06 April 2010	<i>5 days with one weekend</i> 02 April – 06 April 2010
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	<i>11 weeks in total</i> 16 June – 31 August 2010	<i>11 weeks</i> 16 June – 31 August 2010
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	<i>3 days</i> 23 October 2009 (in Autumn holiday) 01 May 2010 (Saturday) 23 (Sunday) -24 May 2010 (Whit Monday)	<i>3 days</i> 23 October 2009 01 May 2010 (Saturday) 23 (Sunday) -24 May 2010 (Whit Monday)
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	Autonomy of the educational institution takes into account the concerning legal provision*	Autonomy of the educational institution takes into account the concerning legal provision*
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	Autonomy of the educational institution takes into account the concerning legal provision*	Autonomy of the educational institution takes into account the concerning legal provision*

Source: Eurydice

### Additional notes:

According to the Act on Public Education, the minister responsible for education shall specify the schedule of the academic year and teaching (the schedule of the academic year). The Article 52 stipulates that the school term-time or the academic year commences on the first working day of September every year and concludes on 15<sup>th</sup> June every year or on the working day which precedes 15<sup>th</sup> June if it is not a working day, the school with leaving the first and last school day of the academic year unchanged may give further holidays (5 days in primary and 6 days in secondary education) to the pupils or may change the beginning and end date of the preset school holidays over the school year.

School holidays at schools teaching, using any of the languages of national or ethnic minorities of Hungary as the language of instruction, may differ from the above described school holidays. (Source: Decree No. 24/2009 (V. 25.) of the Minister of Education and Culture on the organization of school year of 2009/2010).

\* Act No. XXXIII. of 1992 on the legal status of public servants and the Governmental Decree No. 138/1992 the enacting clause of the above act stipulate that the free days of teachers (46 days) primarily have to be given during the summer holiday. If then not all days can be taken, the rest has to be provided during the autumn, winter or spring holidays. (For teachers the autumn, winter and spring holidays are workdays without teaching). Furthermore teachers have 5 days off at their disposal that they can take during the school year by their choice.

## ICELAND

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2009/10 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary and lower secondary education</b>	<b>General upper secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	Between 24-31 August 2009	Between 19 and 24 August 2009
<b>End of students' school year</b>	Between 31 May and 04 June 2010	Between 21 and 28 May 2010
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	0-2 days October 2009	0-2 days October 2009
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks 21 December 2009 – 04 January 2010	2 weeks 21 December 2009 – 04 January 2010
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	0-5 days in February 2010	0-5 days in February 2010
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	7 days 29 March – 06 April 2010	7 days 29 March – 06 April 2010
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	11 weeks Between 05 June and 20 August 2010	13 weeks Between 24 May and 18 August 2010
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	4 days 22 April 2010 01 May 2010 13 May 2010 24 May 2010	4 days 22 April 2010 01 May 2010 13 May 2010 24 May 2010
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	Between 18 and 25 August 2009	Between 18 and 21 August 2009
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	Between 04 and 10 June 2010	Between 25 and 31 May 2010

Source: Eurydice

### **Additional notes:**

According to teachers wage contracts compulsory school teachers shall work in schools 4 days before the beginning of the school year and 4 days after the formal end of the school year. Upper secondary school teachers have a total of 4 working days before the beginning and/or the end of the school year.

## IRELAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2009/10 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	First week of September 2009 <sup>(1)</sup>	Circa 27 August 2009
<b>End of students' school year</b>	End of June 2010 <sup>(2)</sup>	30 June 2010
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	1 week 26 to 30 October 2009	1 week 26 to 30 October 2009
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks 22 December 2009 to 06 January 2010	2 weeks 22 December 2009 to 06 January 2010
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	2 days 15 and 16 February 2010 <sup>(3)</sup>	1 week 15 to 19 February 2010
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	2 weeks 26 March to 9 April 2010	2 weeks 26 March to 9 April 2010
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	About 10 weeks End of June until week of 01 September 2010	About 13 weeks June, July and most of August 2010
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	17/03; 03/05; 07/06 and some religious holidays	17/03; 03/05; 07/06 and some religious holidays
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	01 September 2009	01 September 2009
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	31 August 2010	31 August 2010

Source: Eurydice

### Additional notes:

#### Primary Education

<sup>1</sup> In order to meet the overall requirement of 183 days at primary level, the school year will normally commence in the week that the 1<sup>st</sup> September falls. The exact date is determined locally at Board of Management level.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Primary school may use 3 discretionary days to extend their break to an alternative option of a 5 day break.

Circular 0107/2007 sets out the standardized school breaks at primary level for the school years 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11.

The arrangements for standardized closure at primary level (Circular 0107/2007) 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 utilize 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 religious observance requirements of a school under a particular patronage makes this necessary.

### **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 0107/2007, holiday periods during the school year have been standardized, 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 2008/09 school year, it is expected that post-primary schools will be open circa 28 August 2008.

The above holidays are standardized in accordance with Circular 0107/2007. The school year at post-primary level is very tight and doesn't allow for any additional holidays, as schools must comply with the minimum number of 167 days. In fact, in recent years, since the standardized school calendar, many schools which would have traditionally opened on 1 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

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2009/10 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	Between 14 and 21 September 2009	Between 14 and 21 September 2009
<b>End of students' school year</b>	Between 05 and 12 June 2010	Between 05 and 12 June 2010
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	-	-
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks Between 21/24 December 2009 and 05/06 January 2010	2 weeks Between 21/24 December 2009 and 05/06 January 2010
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	1 to 5 days Generally in February, depending on the regions	1 to 5 days Generally in February, depending on the regions
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	5 to 9 days Between 29 March/01 April and 05/10 April 2010, depending on the regions	5 to 9 days Between 29 March/01 April and 05/10 April 2010, depending on the regions
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	12 – 13 weeks Between June and September 2010	12 – 13 weeks Between June and September 2010
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	5 national holidays 01 November 2009 08 December 2009 25 April 2010 01 May 2010 02 June 2010 and Saints' days, depending on the regions	5 national holidays 01 November 2009 08 December 2009 25 April 2010 01 May 2010 02 June 2010 and Saints' days, depending on the regions
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	01 September 2009	01 September 2009
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	31 August 2010	31 August 2010

Source: Eurydice

## ITALY (CONTINUED)

Specification of terms for the beginning and the end of the school year 2009/10		
Primary and General secondary education		
	Beginning 2009	End 2010
Abruzzo	21 September <sup>(1)</sup>	12 June
Alto Adige (Bolzano)	14 September	12 June
Basilicata	16 September	12 June
Calabria	14 September	05 June
Campania	14 September	12 June
Emilia-Romagna	15 September	05 June
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	15 September	11 June
Lazio	14 September (primary and lower secondary schools) 15 September (upper secondary schools)	12 June
Liguria	14 September	12 June
Lombardia	14 September	12 June
Marche	16 September	09 June
Molise	14 September	12 June
Piemonte	14 September	12 June
Puglia	18 September	09 June
Sardegna	17 September	10 June
Sicilia	18 September	12 June
Toscana	14 September	12 June
Trentino (Trento)	14 September	05 June
Umbria	14 September	10 June
Valle d'Aosta	14 September	12 June
Veneto	14 September	09 June

### Additional notes:

Schools can adjust the school calendar, established by the Regions, to the POF's requirements (the POF is the basic document of the cultural and planning identity of each school. It defines the curricular, extra-curricular, educational and organisational projects of each school). Schools can organise in a flexible way the overall timetable for the curriculum and for any single subject even on the basis of multi-week planning, provided that lessons spread over a minimum of five days per week and that the prescribed annual, pluriennial or cycle number of hours for the single subjects is complied with. Generally speaking, the school year begins between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup> week of September and finishes between the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

<sup>(1)</sup> Due to the earthquake, which occurred in this region in June 2009, damaged schools are free to postpone the starting date of students' school year, taking into account that the minimum amount of yearly lessons is 200 hours.

## LATVIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2009/10 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	01 September 2009	01 September 2009
<b>End of students' school year</b>	31 May 2010	31 May 2010
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	1 week 26 – 30 October 2009	1 week 26 – 30 October 2009
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks 23 December 2009 – 05 January 2010	2 weeks 23 December 2009 – 05 January 2010
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	-	-
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	1 week 29 March – 05 April 2010	1 week 29 March – 05 April 2010
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	13 weeks 01 June – 31 August 2010	13 weeks 01 June – 31 August 2010
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	4 public holidays 18/11/2009; 05/04/2010; 01/05 and 04/05/2010	4 public holidays 18/11/2009; 05/04/2010; 01/05 and 04/05/2010
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	See additional notes	See additional notes
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	See additional notes	See additional notes

Source: Eurydice

### Additional notes:

Lower secondary education (Basic education): end of the school year for the 9<sup>th</sup> class: 11 June 2010.

Upper secondary education: end of the school year for the 12<sup>th</sup> class: 18 June 2010.

The school year is divided in two semesters: the first from 01 September to 22 December 2009 and the second from 06 January to 31 May 2010 (or 11 June for the 9<sup>th</sup> class and 18 June for the 12<sup>th</sup> 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. extreme temperature, strike, emergency situation in school, etc.).

**Holidays (summer 2010):** These are the dates for the official summer holiday period for classes 1-8 and 10-11. For the 1<sup>st</sup> class, education institutions decide on additional holidays of 1 week in the second semester.

**Public holidays:** When holiday coincidences on Saturday or Sunday the holiday is transferred on Monday.

**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

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2008/09 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	17 August 2009	17 August 2009
<b>End of students' school year</b>	02 July 2010	02 July 2010
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	2 weeks 05 October – 18 October 2009	2 weeks 05 October – 18 October 2009
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks 24 December 2009 – 06 January 2010	2 weeks 24 December 2009 – 06 January 2010
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	1 week 13 February – 21 February 2010	1 week 13 February – 21 February 2010
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	2 weeks 01 April (from noon) – 18 April 2010	2 weeks 01 April (from noon) – 18 April 2010
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	6 weeks 03 July – 16 August 2010	6 weeks 03 July – 16 August 2010
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	8 September 2009 1 November 2009 8 December 2009 1 January 2010 6 January 2010 2 February 2010 19 March 2010 1 May 2010 13 May 2010 23-24 May 2010 3 June 2010 15 August 2010	8 September 2009 1 November 2009 8 December 2009 1 January 2010 6 January 2010 2 February 2010 19 March 2010 1 May 2010 13 May 2010 23-24 May 2010 3 June 2010 15 August 2010
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	17 August 2009	17 August 2009
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	02 July 2010	02 July 2010

Source: Eurydice

# LITHUANIA

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2009/10 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	01 September 2009	01 September 2009
<b>End of students' school year</b>	28 May 2010	11 June 2010
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	1 week 26 October – 01 November 2009	1 week 26 October – 30 October 2009
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks 21 December 2009 – 03 January 2010	2 weeks 23 December 2009 – 06 January 2010
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	-	-
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	1 week 29 March 2010 – 04 April 2010	1 week 29 March 2010 – 02 April 2010
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	13 weeks 31 May 2010 – 31 August 2010	11 weeks 14 June 2010 – 31 August 2010
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	1 November 2009 16 February 2010 11 March 2010 01 May 2010	1 November 2009 16 February 2010 11 March 2010 01 May 2010
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	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
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	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: Eurydice

## Additional notes:

The end of students' school year in grade 5 (first year of lower secondary education), grade 10 (last year of lower secondary education), and grade 12 (last year of upper secondary education) is on 28 May.

Additional 2-week school holidays (twice in the year) are allocated to pupils of grades 1 to 5. The recommended time for pupils of grades 1-4 is: 04 January 2010 – 10 January 2010 and 08 February 2010 – 14 February 2010; for pupils of grade 5: 23 November 2009 – 27 November 2009 and 08 February 2010 – 12 February 2010. Subject to the school council's approval, additional school holidays may be allocated at another time.

Summer holidays for students in grade 5 start on 31 May 2010.

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)

## LUXEMBOURG

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2009/10 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	15 September 2009	15 September 2009
<b>End of students' school year</b>	15 July 2010	15 July 2010
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	1 week 31 October 2009 – 8 November 2009	1 week 31 October 2009 – 8 November 2009
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks 19 December 2009 – 03 January 2010	2 weeks 19 December 2009 – 03 January 2010
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	1 week 13 February 2010 – 21 February 2010	1 week 13 February 2010 – 21 February 2010
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	2 weeks 27 March 2010 – 11 April 2010	2 week 27 March 2010 – 11 April 2010
<b>Third term</b>	1 week 22 May – 30 May 2010	1 week 22 May – 30 May 2010
<b>Summer</b>	8 weeks 16 July – 14 September 2010	8 weeks 16 July – 14 September 2010
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	3 days 01 May 2010 13 May 2010 23 June 2010	3 days 01 May 2010 13 May 2010 23 June 2010
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	15 September 2009	15 September 2009
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	15 July 2010	15 July 2010

Source: Eurydice

## MALTA

### Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2009/10 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> September 2009	28 <sup>th</sup> September 2009
<b>End of students' school year</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> June 2010	28 <sup>th</sup> June 2010
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	02 <sup>nd</sup> and 03 <sup>rd</sup> November 2009	02 <sup>nd</sup> and 03 <sup>rd</sup> November 2009
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2009 to 06 <sup>th</sup> January 2010	23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2009 to 06 <sup>th</sup> January 2010
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> and 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2010	15 <sup>th</sup> and 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2010
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	01 <sup>st</sup> to 07 <sup>th</sup> April 2010	01 <sup>st</sup> to 07 <sup>th</sup> April 2010
<b>Third term</b>		
<b>Summer</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> June to 24 <sup>th</sup> September 2010	28 <sup>th</sup> June to 24 <sup>th</sup> September 2010
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	08 <sup>th</sup> December 2009, 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2010, 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2010, 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2010, 01 <sup>st</sup> May 2010	08 <sup>th</sup> December 2009, 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2010, 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2010, 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2010
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> September 2009	18 <sup>th</sup> September 2009
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> July 2010	12 <sup>th</sup> July 2010

Source: Eurydice

#### Additional notes:

During June, schools are on half-days.

Half-yearly Examinations take place between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> February 2010 for secondary school students and between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> February 2010 for primary school pupils.

The Annual Examinations take place between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> June 2010 for secondary school students and between the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> June 2010 for primary school pupils.

On the 18<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2009 and on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> July 2010 teachers attend in-service courses.

Dates for summer holidays are indicated for students. Teachers start their holidays later and start the school year earlier than students.

## THE NETHERLANDS

### Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2009/10 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	Northern region: 17 August 2009 Central region: 24 August 2009 Southern region: 7 September 2009	Northern region: 24 August 2009 Central region: 31 August 2009 Southern region: 7 September 2009
<b>End of students' school year</b>	Northern region: 9 July 2010 Central region: 2 July 2010 Southern region: 23 July 2010	Northern region: 9 July 2010 Central region: 2 July 2010 Southern region: 16 July 2010
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	Northern + Central region: 17 – 25 October 2009 Southern region: 24 October – 1 November 2009	Northern + Central region: 17 – 25 October 2009 Southern region: 24 October – 1 November 2009
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	19 December 2009 – 3 January 2010	19 December 2009 – 3 January 2010
<b>Winter/Carnival*)</b>	Northern + Central region + Southern region: 20 – 28 February 2010	Northern + Central region + Southern region: 20 – 28 February 2010
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	-	-
<b>Third term</b>	30 April – 9 May 2010	30 April – 9 May 2010
<b>Summer</b>	Northern region: 10 July – 22 August 2010 Central region: 3 July – 15 August 2010 Southern region: 24 July – 5 September 2010	Northern region: 10 July – 29 August 2010 Central region: 3 July – 22 August 2010 Southern region: 17 July – 5 September 2010
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	Boxing Day: 26 December 2009 New Year's Day: 1 January 2010 Easter Monday: 5 April 2010 Queen's Birthday: 30 April 2010 Liberation Day: 5 May 2010 Ascension Day: 13 May 2010 Whit Monday: 24 May 2010	
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	See additional notes	See additional notes
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	See additional notes	See additional notes

Source: Eurydice

**Additional notes:**

The school year officially runs from 1 August to 31 July of the following year. 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; the holiday period is staggered over 3 regions (compulsory dates for all schools); all other holidays are recommended by the Ministry.

- \*) Carnival holiday is also called Spring Holiday or Crocus Holiday;
- the recommended period for the Carnival Holiday does not fit with Carnival week; it can be expected that schools in the Roman-Catholic areas of the country 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.).

## NORWAY

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2009/10 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	Between 11 and 24 August 2009 Most counties: 17 August 2009	Between 11 and 24 August 2009 Most counties: 17 August 2009
<b>End of students' school year</b>	Between 18 and 24 June 2010	Between 18 and 24 June 2010
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	1 week (some just 2 days) Starting 28 September or 05 October 2009 (week 40 or 41)	1 week (some just 2 days) Starting 28 September or 05 October 2009 (week 40 or 41)
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	Approx.: 2 weeks Between 18 December 2009 and 4 <sup>th</sup> or 5 <sup>th</sup> of January 2010	Approx.: 2 weeks Between 18 December 2009 and 4 <sup>th</sup> or 5 <sup>th</sup> of January 2010
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	1 week Between 22 February and 05 March 2010 (Week 8 or 9 )	1 week Between 22 February and 05 March 2010 (Week 8 or 9)
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	9 days Between 29 March and 06 April 2010	9 days Between 29 March and 06 April 2010
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	Approx.: 8 weeks Between 18/24 June and 14/21 August 2010	Approx.: 8 weeks Between 18/24 June and 14/21 August 2010
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	2 day 01 May and 17 May	2 day 01 May and 17 May
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	See additional note	See additional note
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	See additional note	See additional note

Source: Eurydice

### Additional notes:

In some regions the school can decide individually the school holidays.

The teachers' work during the school year is counted in working hours. That is 1300 hours for primary education (ISCED 1), 1225 hours for lower secondary education (ISCED 2) and 1150 hours for upper secondary education. It is an individual matter for each school if the work hours, longer than for the students, are before the beginning or after the end of the school year.

## POLAND

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2009/10 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	01 September 2009	01 September 2009
<b>End of students' school year</b>	25 June 2010	25 June 2010
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	-	-
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	1 week 23 December 2009 – 01 January 2010	1 week 23 December 2009 – 01 January 2010
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	2 weeks <b>18 – 31 January 2010</b> Kujawsko-Pomorskie Lubuskie Małopolskie Świętokrzyskie Wielkopolskie <b>25 January –07 February 2010</b> Podlaskie Warmińsko-Mazurskie <b>01 – 14 February 2010</b> Dolnośląskie Mazowieckie Opolskie Zachodniopomorskie <b>15 -28 February 2010</b> Lubelskie Łódzkie Podkarpackie Pomorskie Śląskie	2 weeks <b>18 – 31 January 2010</b> Kujawsko-Pomorskie Lubuskie Małopolskie Świętokrzyskie Wielkopolskie <b>25 January –07 February 2010</b> Podlaskie Warmińsko-Mazurskie <b>01 – 14 February 2010</b> Dolnośląskie Mazowieckie Opolskie Zachodniopomorskie <b>15 -28 February 2010</b> Lubelskie Łódzkie Podkarpackie Pomorskie Śląskie
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	01 – 06 April 2010	01 – 06 April 2010
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	10 weeks 26 June – 31 August 2010	10 weeks 26 June – 31 August 2010
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	3 days 11/11/2009; 03/05/2010, 03/06/2010	3 days 11/11/2009; 03/05/2010, 03/06/2010
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	01 September 2009	01 September 2009
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	25 June 2010	25 June 2010

Source: Eurydice

**Additional notes:**

End of the school year in both primary and secondary schools is always the first Friday after the 18th of June. In the last grades of upper secondary schools ending with the Matura examination, however, the school year ends earlier, on 30 April 2010. In the last grades of gymnasium (lower secondary) ending with the external examination, the school year ends on 30 April 2010. In the last grades of basic vocational schools, ending with the external vocational examination, the school year ends on 18 June 2010.

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 organizational tasks in a given school.

## PORTUGAL

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2009/10 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	Between 10 and 15 September 2009	Between 10 and 15 September 2009
<b>End of students' school year</b>	18 June 2010	8 June 2010 (9 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup> grades) 18 June 2010 (7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> grades)
<b>First term</b>	10/15 September – 18 December 2009	10/15 September – 18 December 2009
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	19 December 2009 – 03 January 2010	19 December 2009 – 03 January 2010
<b>Second term</b>	04 January – 26 March 2010	04 January – 26 March 2010
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	15 – 17 February 2010	15 – 17 February 2010
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	27 March – 11 April 2010	27 March – 11 April 2010
<b>Third term</b>	12 April – 18 June 2010	12 April – 8/18 June 2010
<b>Summer</b>	About 12 weeks 21 June – 10/15 September 2010	About 12 weeks 21 June (except for 9 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup> grades, submitted to national exams) – 10/15 September 2010
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	<b>5 days:</b> 05 October 01 December 08 December 03 June 10 June	<b>5 days:</b> 05 October 01 December 08 December 03 June 10 June
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	a) see additional notes	a) see additional notes
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	a) see additional notes	a) see additional notes

Source: Eurydice

### Additional notes:

a) The official length of teachers' school year goes from the 1st September to the 31st August. Teachers have the right to one month summer holidays, which they can enjoy during the months of June (at the end of pupils school year), July or August, according to the needs of the respective schools.

## ROMANIA

### Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2009/10 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	14 September 2009	14 September 2009
<b>End of students' school year</b>	11 June 2010	11 June 2010
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	02 November – 08 November 2009	-
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	19 December 2009 – 03 January 2010	19 December 2009 – 03 January 2010
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	30 January – 07 February 2010	30 January – 07 February 2010
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	03 April – 11 April 2010	03 April – 11 April 2010
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	12 June – 12 September 2010	12 June – 12 September 2010
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	11 days National holyday: 01/12/2009 Christmas: 25/12/2009 and 26/12/2009 New Year: 01/01/2010 and 02/01/2010 Easter: 04/04/2010 and 05/04/2010 Labour Day: 01/05/2010 Pentecost: 23/05/2010 and 24/05/2010 Saint Mary: 15/08/2010	11 days National holyday: 01/12/2009 Christmas: 25/12/2009 and 26/12/2009 New Year: 01/01/2010 and 02/01/2010 Easter: 04/04/2010 and 05/04/2010 Labour Day: 01/05/2010 Pentecost: 23/05/2010 and 24/05/2010 Saint Mary: 15/08/2010
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	01 September 2009	01 September 2009
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	31 August 2010*	31 August 2010*

Source: Eurydice

#### Additional notes:

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 173 school days is maintained and all pupils may participate without restrictions in national examinations.

\*Teachers: During school holidays, teachers may benefit from an annual leave of minimum 62 days excluding Sundays and legal holidays.

# SLOVAKIA

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2009/10 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	02 September 2009	02 September 2009
<b>End of students' school year</b>	30 June 2010	30 June 2010
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	2 days 29 – 30 October 2009	2 days 29 – 30 October 2009
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks 23 December 2009 – 08 January 2010	2 weeks 23 December 2009 – 08 January 2010
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	1 day 1 February 2010 1 week <b>15 – 19 February 2010</b> regions: Košice , Prešov <b>22 – 26 February 2010</b> Banska Bystrica, Žilina, Trenčín <b>01 – 05 March 2010</b> Bratislava, Nitra, Trnava	1 day 1 February 2010 1 week <b>15 – 19 February 2010</b> regions: Košice, Prešov <b>22 – 26 February 2010</b> Banska Bystrica, Žilina, Trenčín <b>01 – 05 March 2010</b> Bratislava, Nitra, Trnava
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	04 days (Easter holidays) 01 – 06 April 2010	4 days (Easter holidays) 01 – 06 April 2010
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2010	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2010
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	3 days 01/09/2009, 15/09/2009, 17/11/2009	3 days 01/09/2009, 15/09/2009, 17/11/2009
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	Usually one week before beginning of the school year	Usually one week before beginning of the school year
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	Usually, one week after summer holidays begin	Usually, one week after summer holidays begin

Source: Eurydice

## Additional notes:

Official school year: 01 September to 31 August.

Following the Labour Code, teachers and head teachers of schools 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

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2009/10 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General upper secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	01 September 2009	01 September 2009
<b>End of students' school year</b>	24 June 2010	24 June 2010
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	1 week 26 October – 01 November	1 week 26 October – 01 November
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	1 ½ week 25 December 2009 – 02 January 2010	1 ½ week 25 December 2009 – 02 January 2010
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	1 week 15 February – 19 February 2010 (Ljubljana, Maribor, Ptuj) 22 February – 26 February 2010 (other regions)	1 week 15 February – 19 February 2010 (Ljubljana, Maribor, Ptuj) 22 February – 26 February 2010 (other regions)
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	1 day 5 April 2010 (Easter Monday)	1 day 5 April 2010 (Easter Monday)
<b>Third term</b>	1 week 26 April – 02 May 2010	1 week 26 April – 02 May 2010
<b>Summer</b>	9 weeks 25 June – 31 August 2010	9 weeks 25 June – 31 August 2010
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	1 day 08 February 2010 (Day of Slovenian Culture)	1 day 08 February 2010 (Day of Slovenian Culture)
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	At least 10 days before the starting date for students	At least 10 to 15 days before the starting date for students
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	Between the beginning to mid-July 2010	Between the beginning to mid-July 2010

Source: Eurydice

**Additional notes:**

The official length of the school year is from 01 September to 31 August, but lessons are completed in June.

**Primary education:** Primary and lower secondary education (single structure education);

**General secondary education:** Upper secondary general education.

**End of the school lessons (single structure of primary and lower secondary education):**

15 June for the final (9<sup>th</sup>) grade pupils, external examinations run in May;

24 June for pupils who are not in the final grade (grades 1-8).

**End of the upper secondary school lessons:**

21 May end of lessons for students in final grade; final examinations in June and July;

24 June is the last day of lessons for upper secondary students who are not in the final grade.

**Teachers'** school year begins about 10 to 15 days before the pupils'/students' school year and ends somewhere between the beginning to mid July. 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.

## SPAIN

### Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2009/10 school year <sup>(1)</sup>, <sup>(2)</sup>

	Primary education	General secondary education
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	Between 8 and 14 September 2009	Between 9 and 17 September 2009
<b>End of students' school year</b>	Between 18 and 23 June 2010	Between 18 and 25 2010 June <sup>(3)</sup> 2010
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	-	-
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	At least 2 weeks between 23 December 2009 and 8 January 2010	At least 2 weeks between 23 December 2009 and 8 January 2010
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	Between 3 and 6 days (depending on the Autonomous Community) <sup>(4)</sup>	Between 3 and 6 (depending on the Autonomous Community) <sup>(4)</sup>
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	About 1 week between 26 March and 14 April 2010	About 1 week between 26 March and 14 April 2010
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	11 weeks between late June and mid September 2010	11/12 weeks between late June and mid September 2010
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	12 public holidays (some of them common throughout the whole country and some specific of the different Autonomous Communities).	12 public holidays (some of them common throughout the whole country and some specific of the different Autonomous Communities).
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	1 September 2009	1 September 2009
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	30 June 2010	30 June 2010

#### Additional notes:

- <sup>(1)</sup> Dates vary according to the different Autonomous Communities, see the table below.
- <sup>(2)</sup> The total minimum number of school days is 175 in Primary, Lower Secondary and Upper Secondary Education in all Autonomous Communities.
- <sup>(3)</sup> In the last year of post-compulsory upper general secondary education, classes are finished two or three weeks earlier. This time is used to prepare the university entrance examinations.
- <sup>(4)</sup> In the different Autonomous Communities, the education authorities allocate a certain number of days (between 3 and 6) for Carnival, bank holidays or other free days or grant freedom to schools to allocate these days along the whole school year at their convenience.

## Spain (continued)

Specification of terms for the beginning and the end of the school year 2009/10				
	Primary education		General secondary education	
	Beginning 2009	End 2010	Beginning 2009	End 2010 <sup>(1)</sup>
Andalucía	10 September	Not before 22 June	15 September	22 June
Aragón	8 September	18 June	10 September <sup>(2)</sup>	18 June <sup>(2)</sup>
Asturias	11 September	18 June	17 September	24 June
Baleares	11 September	18 June	11 September	18 June
Canarias	8 September	23 June	14 September	23 June
Cantabria	14 September	23 June	14 September	23 June
Castilla y León	10 September	23 June	14 September <sup>(2)</sup>	23 June <sup>(2)</sup>
Castilla-La Mancha	10 September	21 June	16 September	25 June
Cataluña	14 September	22 June	14 September	22 June
Ceuta	9 September	18 June	9 September (Lower Secondary) 14 September (Upper Secondary)	18 June
Extremadura	14 September	22 June	14 September (Lower Secondary) 16 September (Upper Secondary)	22 June
Galicia	10 September	22 June	17 September	23 June
La Rioja	8 September	22 June	11 September	22 June
Madrid	14 September	23 June	16 September	23 June
Melilla	9 September	18 June	9 September (Lower Secondary) 14 September (Upper Secondary)	18 June
Murcia	14 September	23 June	16 September	25 June
Navarra	10 September	21 June	14 September	18 June
País Vasco <sup>(3)</sup>	Not before 8 September	Not later 23 June	Not before 8 September	Not later 23 June
C. Valenciana	8 September	22 June	15 September	23 June

**Additional notes:**

<sup>(1)</sup> In the last year of post-compulsory upper general secondary education, classes are finished two or three weeks earlier. This time is used to prepare the university entrance examinations.

<sup>(2)</sup> In those cases that first cycle of compulsory lower secondary education is provided in primary schools the starting and ending dates are the same as for primary education.

<sup>(3)</sup> Schools are free to establish their own calendar taking into account the limit starting and ending dates established by the educational authorities.

Source: School calendars of the 17 Autonomous Communities and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla.

## SWEDEN

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2009/10 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
	The exact days vary on regional and municipality levels	The exact days vary on regional and municipality levels
<b>Starting date of students' school year 2009</b>	August. Between week 34-35	August. Between week 34-35
<b>End of students' school year 2009</b>	June. Between week 23-24	June. Between week 23-24
According to the Compulsory School Ordinance and the Upper secondary School Ordinance shall a schoolyear have at least 178 schooldays and at least 12 holidays		
<b>Autumn holidays 2009</b>	October. Week 44	October. Week 44
<b>Christmas/New Year 2009/2010</b>	December week 51-52 and January week 1-2	December week 51-52 and January week 1-2
<b>Winter/Carnival 2009</b>	Between week 7-9, 2010	Between week 7-9, 2010
<b>Spring/Easter 2009</b>	Between week 13-14, 2010	Between week 13-14, 2010
<b>Third term 2009</b>	-	-
<b>Summer 2009</b>	About 10 weeks	About 10 weeks
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	17 days total which of 2 are not religious holidays (01/05) and (06/06)	17 days total which of 2 are not religious holidays (01/05) and (06/06)
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	Between 11 and 24 August 2010	Between 11 and 24 August 2010
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	Between 05 and 18 June 2010	Between 05 and 18 June 2010

Source: Eurydice

### Additional notes:

Starting and finishing dates vary on regional and municipality levels.

**Teachers:** Teachers have 5 extra days to plan the schoolwork or for further education.

The start and end of teachers' working period is not regulated and they can have their extra days when the students are on holidays or not.

## TURKEY

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2009/10 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	24 September 2009	24 September 2009
<b>End of students' school year</b>	18 June 2010	18 June 2010
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	3 days 20 – 22 September 2009 (religious holidays) 4 days 27 – 30 December 2009 (religious holidays)	3 days 20 – 22 September 2009 (religious holidays) 4 days 27 – 30 December 2009 (religious holidays)
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	1 day 01 January 2010	1 day 01 January 2010
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	2 weeks 25 January – 08 February 2010	2 weeks 25 January – 08 February 2010
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	1 day 23 April 2010 (Public holidays)	1 day 23 April 2010 (Public holidays)
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	13 weeks 18 June – 13 September 2010	13 weeks 18 June – 13 September 2010
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	1 day 29 October 2009 (Public holiday) 1 day 19 May 2010 (Public holiday)	1 day 29 October 2009 (Public holiday) 1 day 19 May 2010 (Public holiday)
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	Beginning September	Beginning September
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	Beginning July	Beginning July

Source: Eurydice

### Additional notes:

For primary 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

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2009/10 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	The first week of September 2009	The first week of September 2009
<b>End of students' school year</b>	Between 19 and 23 July 2010	Between 19 and 23 July 2010
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	1 week 26 – 30 October 2009	1 week 26 – 30 October 2009
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks Between 21 December 2009 and the first week of January 2010	2 weeks Between 21 December 2009 and the first week of January 2010
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	1 week 15 – 19 February 2010	1 week 15 – 19 February 2010
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	2 weeks 05 – 16 April 2010	2 weeks 05 – 16 April 2010
<b>Third term</b>	1 week 31 May – 04 June 2010	1 week 31 May – 04 June 2010
<b>Summer</b>	6 weeks Between 19 July and the first week of September 2010	6 weeks Between 19 July and the first week of September 2010
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	Good Friday 02 April 2010 Easter Monday 05 April 2010 Early May Bank Holiday 03 May 2010	Good Friday 02 April 2010 Easter Monday 05 April 2010 Early May Bank Holiday 03 May 2010
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	The first week of September 2009	The first week of September 2009
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	Between 19 and 23 July 2010	Between 19 and 23 July 2010

Source: Eurydice

**Additional notes:** Schools must be open to pupils for at least 380 half day sessions each school year. Teachers are required to be available for five additional days, ie for 195 days in total. The actual dates on which schools operate are not laid down centrally; they are set, depending on the legal category of the school, by the local authority (LA) or school governing body.

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

There is currently movement towards the adoption of a standard school year, consistent year on year. The standard school year is divided into six blocks of roughly even length which are more evenly distributed throughout the year: two, approximately seven-week blocks before Christmas, followed by four approximately six-week blocks afterwards. The spring break is taken around the first two weeks of April irrespective of the timing of Easter. A 2008 LGA survey found that, since its introduction in 2004/05, 79 local authorities out of 125 had adopted the standard school year fully or in part.

## UNITED KINGDOM – NORTHERN IRELAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2009/10 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	01 September 2009	01 September 2009
<b>End of students' school year</b>	30 June 2010	30 June 2010
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	2 days 29 – 30 October 2009	2 days 29 – 30 October 2009
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks 23 December 2009 – 01 January 2010	2 weeks 23 December 2009 – 01 January 2010
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	2 days 15 – 16 February 2010	2 days 15 – 16 February 2010
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	1 week 01 – 09 April 2010	1 week 01 – 09 April 2010
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	9 weeks Between 01 July and the first week of September 2010	9 weeks Between 01 July and the first week of September 2010
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	St. Patrick's Day 17 March 2010 (not all schools) Early May Bank Holiday 03 May 2010 Spring Bank Holiday 31 May 2010 (not all schools)	St. Patrick's Day 17 March 2010 (not all schools) Early May Bank Holiday 03 May 2010 Spring Bank Holiday 31 May 2010 (not all schools)
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	01 September 2009	01 September 2009
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	30 June 2010	30 June 2010

Source: Eurydice

### Additional notes:

The table shows the dates on which schools are closed to pupils. Teachers must attend on 5 of these dates for training and development purposes.

Schools are required to be in operation for 200 days a year; however, schools have the discretion to close for up to 5 optional days. Optional days are intended to cover closings throughout the year in special circumstances, for example the death of a person connected with the school, the need to move premises, the start of building work at the school or church holy days. These optional days are therefore likely to differ from school to school.

Not all schools close on St Patrick's Day, 17 March and the Spring Bank Holiday, 31 May.

## UNITED KINGDOM - SCOTLAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2009/10 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	Mid-August 2009	Mid-August 2009
<b>End of students' school year</b>	End June/early July 2010	End June/early July 2010
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	Many schools will take from 1 to 2 weeks in mid-October 2009 but others will take from 1 to 3 days spread out between 7 September and 2 December 2009	Many schools will take from 1 to 2 weeks in mid-October 2009 but others will take from 1 to 3 days spread out between 7 September and 2 December 2009
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 to 2.5 weeks between 18 December 2009 to 11 January 2010	Around 2 weeks between 18 December 2009 to 11 January 2010
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	From 1 day to 1 week between 10 and 22 February 2010	From 1 day to 1 week between 10 and 22 February 2010
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	About 2 weeks between 26 March and 20 April 2010	About 2 weeks between 26 March and 20 April 2010
<b>Summer mid-term holidays</b>	Generally schools will take at least 1 day on 3 May 2010 but some schools will also take up to 3 days between 30 April and 31 May 2010	Generally schools will take at least 1 day on 3 May 2010 but some schools will also take up to 3 days between 30 April and 31 May 2010
<b>Summer</b>	End June/early July – mid-August 2010	End June – mid-August 2010
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	Up to 3 days	Up to 3 days
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	Mid-August 2009	Mid-August 2009
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	End June/early July 2010	End June/early July 2010

Source: Eurydice

### Additional notes:

In Scotland, pupils attend school for 190 days a year. The teachers' school year is longer by 5 in-service days (195 days).

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.