



3 May 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

Consultation on the length of the school day and extending the school week to 32.5 hours

Each year we review the delivery of our curriculum and the opportunities that are available to us in the coming academic year. Alongside this, we continue to monitor national expectations and ensure we are accountable in our delivery for our students and community. Following a detailed review of the current educational landscape and the needs of our school community, we are proposing to extend the hours students spend in school to 32.5 hours. This will be an increase from the 30.67 hours they currently spend with us.

The proposed school timings are now:

8.30am – school starts

3pm – school finishes

These timings mean students will:

- Increase the number of lessons from 24 to 25 each week
- Have an extended break time each day allowing more opportunity for students to go outside and spend time with their friends
- Allow Personal Development to be delivered without encroaching on other curriculum allocated time
- Allow more tutor time to prepare students for the day, give messages and continue with our tutor reading programme

Tutor	8.30am - 8.50am		
Lesson 1	8.55am - 9.55am		
Lesson 2	10.00am - 11.00am		
Break	11.00am - 11.25am		
Lesson 3	11.25am - 12.25pm		
Lesson 4/Lunch	Lesson	Lunch	
	12.55pm-1.55pm	1	12.25pm-12.55pm
	12.30pm-1.00pm 1.30pm-2.00pm	2	1.00pm-1.30pm
	12.30pm-1.30pm	3	1.30pm-2.00pm
Lesson 5	2.00pm - 3.00pm		

Explaining the rationale, please see an explanation for some of our key reasons below:

Increasing taught lessons from 24 to 25 periods per week

Personal Development forms a vital part of the education students receive and to give the lesson a full hour, it has been a floating period replacing a student's other subjects each week on a rotation. The intention is to provide a dedicated lesson each week allowing students to study Personal Development without it having an impact on the time other subjects receive.

Break times

As a large school on a small site, the break times are difficult to organise in the current school day. In addition, the current school day layout does not provide any 'breathing space' for students and staff between double lessons. This means students do not have the opportunity to burn off steam and staff do not have the chance to prepare fully for their next teaching sessions.

We are therefore proposing to extend break times to 25 minutes. The advantages of this would include:

- Students will be allowed outside, on the field, Astro, etc. – this is something that comes up in student and parent voice every year
- Staff will be able to have a meaningful break

We are unable to alter the length of lunch due to the dining room capacity but this enables students to have 50 minutes extra break a week whilst increasing lesson time too.

Strengthening Pastoral Support

Currently tutor time is 10 minutes long, which can often not be enough time to carry out the routines needed. By lengthening the tutor session by 10 minutes, we are able to:

- Allow more time for tutor-tutee support
- Provide adequate time for tutors to complete all of the daily tasks (esp. notices etc.)
- Provide adequate time for assemblies
- Enhance tutor – student relationships
- Provide time for the tutor reading programme

We have given due consideration to the start and finish times of the school day and taken into account the start and end times of Aldryngton Primary School.

Next Steps

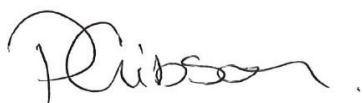
We have concluded a staff survey and now want to hear your voice. Please complete the simple form below by Saturday 20 May 2023 at 5pm. We will then discuss this and liaise with the Local Advisory Board. I will then write to you after the May half term break with my decision.

The response form can be found here:

[Parent Consultation](#)

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and fill in the form.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Gibson
Headteacher