



14 June 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

Introduction

During April and May 2023, the school has been consulting on proposals to change the length of the school day and the school week. The proposal is to have a consistent school day from 8.30am - 3.00pm Monday to Friday.

The rationale for the proposal is:

- Increasing taught lessons from 24 to 25 per week.
- To increase breaktimes and allow students to spend them outside.
- To give sufficient time for the range of pastoral and tutor activities required.

Feedback to Consultation

Staff feedback and response to the proposal (40 responses):

68% felt it was a reasonable way of expanding the school week, 32% opposed to the proposal.

Parental feedback (579 responses):

64% supportive of the proposal, 28% opposed to the proposal, 8% maybe.

Response to key points/questions raised:

Question/comment (summary of the most frequent points made)	School leadership response
Lunch time should be made longer as well as break	All options were considered to allow students to have a greater experience outside of lessons. We opted to extend break rather than lunch as we are limited by the capacity of our dining room and we have to accommodate 3 lunchtime sittings.
Earlier start times are not as helpful as a later finish time	We explored the option of a later start and finish time but we had to be mindful of the times Aldryngton Primary School finish at as our entrance and exits would become overly congested and dangerous if schools started or finished at the same time.
Why can the additional time not be given to English/Maths etc. rather than Personal Development?	Personal Development is a key component of the compulsory education all pupils in English state schools receive. It is vital our children learn this curriculum to help them grow in to knowledgeable and sensible young adults. Currently this is a floating period which takes time away from other subjects so by allocating an assigned period it stops other subjects being hit as well as adding value to this crucial subject.
How will children be supervised during breaktime?	This is a logistical issue rather than a concern. Staff have 2 x break duties as part of their directed time and there will be staff available and stationed across the school to make sure supervision occurs. In addition, there will be out of bounds areas.

The additional breaktimes are great for staff and students to unwind	We agree! This has always been something we wanted to address and even more so on the back of Covid 19.
What about when it is wet or too cold/hot?	We will have a shadow timetable of indoor breaks where pupils will go to their next lesson area. However, we will try and avoid this wherever possible.
Tutor time becomes longer, will it be useful?	The tutor/tutee bond is something that we have not managed to foster as much as we would like with only 10 minutes. Having a purposeful tutor session will help set pupils up for the day. It will also allow for longer and more in depth assembly time with the Pastoral Leads.

Final Decision

Following the conclusion of the consultation process and having considered the feedback, I have made the decision, with the support of the Senior Leadership Team, Local Advisory Body and Trust Executive Team to **implement the proposed changes in full**.

The school day from will run from **8.30am – 3.00 pm** Monday to Friday (from September 2023).

Our envisaged daily timings will be:

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		

We will keep the in-day timings under review into the new academic year.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all stakeholders for their engagement with this process. Parents are now requested to ensure arrangements are made for your child to be in school during these published hours in the new school year.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Gibson
Headteacher