

Consultation on proposal to change the timing of the school day

Context

As you will be aware, on Wednesday 5th April 2017, a consultation process commenced in relation to the extension of the school day. The proposal is part of the wider improvement strategy that has made a significant impact to learning and outcomes for all our children, adding 10 minutes to the tutorial period in the morning and 5 minutes to lunch. We are grateful to all those people who gave feedback on the proposal; a report summarising the survey findings can be found on the school website.

Governing Body Decision

The Governing Body has decided that the school day should be extended to provide longer tutorial and lunch periods. Governors voted in favour of the proposal for a number of reasons. These reasons are detailed below:

Tutorial

Twenty five minutes per day will be allocated to tutorial, which will enable an enhanced programme to prepare all pupils for their learning, with specific programmes for literacy, numeracy, current affairs, British values and social education. The additional time will also enhance the pastoral support that we offer every child and provide a calmer start to the school day, enabling pupils to be better able to cope with the demands of school life.

Lunch time

The school will now have a 40 minute lunch break to allow sufficient time for separate entry to lunch for younger and older pupils. This will provide a more orderly and less rushed feel to the queueing and dining arrangements, giving a calmer and more purposeful start to the afternoon session.

Timing of the day

The school day will start at 8.45am and finish at 3.10pm. Whilst the majority of parents were in favour of the proposal, there were numerous comments from stakeholders that warranted serious consideration, and after careful deliberation, Governors felt that an amendment should be made to the timings put forward by Senior Leaders. Indeed, Whickham School currently has the latest start of any secondary school in Gateshead.

The new school day

The timings of the new school day are detailed below.

8:40	Registration bell
8:45	Tutorial
9:10	Period 1
10:10	Period 2
11:10	Break
11:25	Period 3
12:25	Lunch
13:05	Registration bell
13:10	Period 4
14:10	Period 5
15:10	End of school day

Every second Tuesday school will finish at 14:10

Please note that the new timings will take effect from Tuesday 5th September 2017.

We would like to thank all those people who took the time to respond to the consultation. Governors and Senior Leaders have been through a detailed and thorough process in both gathering views and considering the feelings of all stakeholders.

Where any stakeholder has questions arising from any aspect of the above, please feel free to contact one of us through Nicola Graham (Ext 205).

Yours sincerely



Steve Haigh
Headteacher



Sasha Ban
Chair of Governing Body