



Southfield School
Challenge | Commitment | Choice

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RT/CLL011

Dear Parents/Carers,

CHANGES TO THE SCHOOL DAY: OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION

You may recall that toward the end of 2017 a consultation exercise took place regarding proposals to changes in the school day planned to take effect in September 2018. Of the 1,015 letters that were sent to parents/carers, 5% responded and, of those, 3% expressed concerns.

Many of the respondents commented positively and highlighted the opportunities that the proposed changes afforded their daughter to pursue activities on Wednesday afternoons and the greater efficiency in the use of time during the school day.

Of those that did not support the proposed changes, common concerns and responses to those concerns are as follows:

Concern 1: Start of Period 1 at 8.25 am with no AM Tutor Time for students to 'settle down'

Response: Research shows that students learn better in the morning than the afternoon. Therefore, removing AM Tutor Time will maximise this optimum learning time. We have also found that the AM Tutor Time is unsettling as it creates unnecessary movement around the school at the beginning of the day. We have contacted the company that operates the school buses and have liaised with Bishop Stopford School, with whom we share the buses, to book an earlier arrival time of five minutes, specifically for the 105 and 106 services, as, having closely monitored their punctuality, they have been running late on occasions. Consequently, we have adjusted the start of Period 1 to 8.30 am and all students should be able to arrive at school at 8.25 am for a prompt start.

Concern 2: Loss of student/tutor 'bonding' time during AM Tutor Time.

Response: It is considered that the effect of removing AM Tutor Time will be negligible in this respect as the existing session is very short and currently providing a consistent form tutor in the morning is not always possible.

Concern 3: Students not being allowed into school early.

Response: As per current arrangements, students will be allowed access to the school from 7:30 am.

Registration Number: 07694399



Concern 4: Earlier finish to the school day.

Response: We are currently in consultation with Bishop Stopford School and the school bus company, RB Travel, to negotiate an earlier pick up time at Bryant Road. Additionally, school staff will escort all students from the school to Bryant Road. This has been an aspiration for some time but has, previously, been unachievable due to access issues at Bryant Road. Additionally, there will be school staff on duty at the Netherfield Road entrance as we have become increasingly concerned about students crossing this road without due care. If parents/carers experience difficulty in collecting students at 3:00 pm, students are welcome to use the library which will be open until 4.30 pm each day, as it currently is, except for Fridays.

Concern 5: 2:15 pm finish on Wednesdays and the difficulty for parents/carers in picking up students.

Response: Students do not need to be picked up at 2:15 pm on a Wednesday. Activities will run on Wednesday afternoons until 3:15 pm, the current end of the school day, and will finish in time for students to catch the school bus. Students attending Wednesday afternoon activities will be registered and a range of activities will be provided.

Concern 6: Impact on existing school clubs.

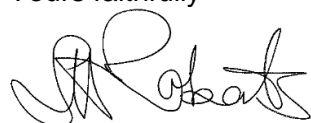
Response: It is anticipated that the majority of, but not all, extra-curricular activities will take place on Wednesday afternoons. They will benefit from additional time to deliver the activity properly and alleviate the pressure on students and staff having to eat lunch quickly. Some school clubs will continue at lunchtimes.

In conclusion, having addressed all the concerns voiced during the consultation and having discussed the issues raised with both the School Leadership Team and the Chair of Governors we have decided to implement the changes to the school day from September 2018 as follows:

School Day Timings: September 2018		
	Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri	Wed
Period 1	8:30 - 9:30	8:30 - 9:30
Period 2	9:30 - 10:30	9:30 - 10:30
Break	10:30 - 10:50	10:30 - 10:45
Form Time	10:50 - 11:15	10:45 - 10:55
Period 3	11:15 - 12:15	10:55 - 11:55
Period 4	12:15 - 13:15	11:55 - 12:55
Lunch	13:15 - 14:00	12:55 - 13:15
Period 5	14:00 - 15:00	13:15 - 14:15

Your continued engagement and support in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Steph Roberts
Headteacher