



Road Safety Awareness

Be a considerate driver
Do not park on restricted areas on Talbot Avenue or Lidgett Lane
Be respectful of our local residents
Please use the turning circle paying attention to the speed limit
Obey speeding restrictions; they are there to protect our children
Look after the environment and switch off your engine, when stationary,
for cleaner air!

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Allerton Grange School

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Our Ref: MRp/BMa

30 January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Changing the timings of the School Day from September 2023 – Community Consultation

In early January, I wrote to you informing you about a whole school consultation taking place about the proposal to extend the school day at Allerton Grange. The proposal recommended starting the school day 20 minutes earlier, at 08:30 every morning, and finishing at the current time of 15:00.

The reasons for planning for an extended school day are:

1. School leaders require additional curriculum time to:
 - a. Fully implement the computer science curriculum across each year group at Key Stage 3.
 - b. Fully implement the classics curriculum across each year group at Key Stage 3.
2. School leaders require additional curriculum time to secure all students taking part in a range of enrichment opportunities throughout the year.
3. An extended school day will allow school leaders to create a timetable of more frequent, shorter, lessons (all research into cognitive science shows more frequent shorter lessons aids knowledge retrieval).

In finding, the best model to address the reasons above, school leaders had to consider the following criteria:

1. Can the proposal be implemented without any additional costs?
2. Is the proposal workable for Allerton Grange staff with childcare commitments?
3. Is the proposal workable for families needing to drop-off younger children at local primary schools?
4. Does the proposal enable for greater curriculum innovation and flexibility.

Thank you to the families who provided feedback during the consultation period. The breakdown of feedback is as follows:

1. Number of responses = 102 (8% of all Allerton Grange families)
2. 63% of respondents agreed with extending the school day in some form.
3. 34% of respondents agreed with extending the school day by starting earlier.
4. 20% of respondents would rather the extension took place at the end of the day.
5. 17% of respondents wanted the additional time added to social time (break and lunchtime).
6. Less than 5% had concerns with travel arrangements and a similar number had worries about dropping siblings off at primary schools.



In addition, some parents raised concerns and suggested alternative models. These were discussed at the full governing body meeting on 24 January, a sample of responses are below:

1. Could the school day be extended by finishing later in the afternoon?

Terms and conditions for all staff at Allerton Grange include an 08:30 start, extending the school day beyond 15:00 would require a full renegotiation of terms and conditions and paying support staff more.

2. Could the additional time be used to extend break and lunchtime for students?

Making amendments to the timings for break or lunchtime were not part of the original proposal and would not address the main aims as stated earlier. There are no plans to change timings for break or lunchtimes.

3. Travel arrangements and primary school timings:

Considerable time was taken researching local bus times and the timings for local primary schools before consulting on the proposed times. Many parents who agreed with the proposed times, welcomed the earlier start because it provided a more co-ordinated approach with primary schools.

4. How will extending the school day enable all students to partake in enrichment activities?

The earlier start and more frequent shorter lessons will create an additional 10 lessons every two weeks. This additional curriculum time will be used to:

- a) Timetable Classics and Computer Science throughout Key Stage 3.
- b) Provide additional curriculum time for the majority of subjects in every key stage.
- c) Build into the timetable a dedicated enrichment period, once every two weeks, for all students. This session will involve students engaging in: a leadership activity; a community project; a creative activity; or learning a new skill. After-school enrichment clubs will continue as now.

In conclusion, having considered all the feedback from staff and parents, the governing body felt the proposed timings best met the stated aims. Governors therefore agreed to adopt the proposed school timings from September 2023. As a result, the school day, for all students, will start at 08:30 and finish at 15:00.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Roper
Headteacher