

St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School

St Andrew's Road, Dinas Powys,

Vale of Glamorgan, CF64 4HB

Tel: 029 20513089

www.standrewsweb.com

standrewsmajorps@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk



Dear Parents and Carers,

18th March 2021

Changing the school day from September 2021 = CONSULTATION

The governors and I are considering some permanent changes to the structure and timings of the school day to begin in September 2021. The following information sets out our intentions and the reasons why we are considering the changes.

Over the last year, there have been many changes to the way we have organised the school day. This was permitted by Welsh Government who relaxed the legislation to enable schools to operate flexible and staggered start/end times and to enable us to supervise breaks and lunches safely. It is my understanding that these changes are likely to remain in place until at least the end of this academic year in July.

During the last year, there have been a number of positive outcomes as a result of the changes, particularly in terms of pupil well-being and quality of learning. There have also been noticeable improvements in terms of safety at the start and end of the day.

Your opinion is valued and we want to give you the opportunity to read and respond to the proposals before final decisions are made. The governors have already met and agreed to present the proposals to you and the outcome will be determined by a majority decision putting the children's learning first and what is best for the school moving forward.

As always, the governors are forward thinking and strategic about how we can make outcomes and standards better. Research shows that children's productivity is better earlier in the day, which has been a consideration in addition to those points above. We have also looked at other schools and models for information. We believe we have considered all pros and cons, but now want to ask you for your thoughts. We will also be asking and listening to the children.

Please respond via email to standrewsmajorpsps@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk by Thursday 22nd April 2021. We will be holding a virtual meeting on Tuesday 27th April at 5pm in order to provide further opportunity for you to give your views. More details of this will follow after Easter.

A final decision will then be made and communicated to all by Friday May 28th 2021 at the latest.

Yours faithfully,

Gen Hallett
Headteacher

Sarah Jenkins Welch
Chair of Governors

Section 1 = Rationale

(Please note - this refers to arrangements prior to last March 2020)

- 1. The start and end of the day are hectic due to the numbers of people on site. This leads to safeguarding concerns.**
 - i. The long lines of Foundation Phase children in the morning are difficult to manage safely with the numbers of parents who stay close by.
 - ii. When dismissing all children at the end of the day, it can be very difficult for staff to see the parent or carer amidst the throngs of people.
 - iii. The current pedestrian gate is narrow and can become a bottle neck with people leaving/entering the site.

- 2. We currently have a longer lunch time and school day than many other primary schools. In addition to this, many schools no longer have an afternoon break at all. Our Foundation Phase pupils currently have 1 hour 10 mins for lunch. This can mean pupils are outside for 50/55 minutes once they have finished eating.**
 - i. A long lunch time can be detrimental to the physical well-being of children due to very cold/wet weather but also very hot weather in summer.
 - ii. A long lunch time often leads to social issues and can have a detrimental impact on emotional well-being as well as impacting on lesson time.
 - iii. Due to some pupils becoming physically tired, afternoon breaks can also be problematic (as outlined in point ii. above). In addition, this is the time of the day when we appear to record more physical injuries.

Section 2 = Current arrangements and positive outcomes

(Since the relaxing of statutory requirements March 2020)

- 1. The 15 minute flexible start time**
 - i. Far fewer children are upset/crying coming in to school than was the case with the old lining up system.
 - iv. In class, there is the opportunity for children to be greeted individually by their teacher/LSA. We have had a lot of positive feedback from pupils and staff about this aspect of the day. In general, there is a much calmer start to the day for all.
 - v. Although we are not currently using KS2 cloakrooms due to strict contact groups, congestion in these areas would be significantly reduced and become less of a health and safety issue. We have had issues in the past.
 - vi. The lay-by is restricted to use by the school bus, reducing the potential for injury to a pedestrian.

- 2. Staggered playtimes (morning and afternoon)**
 - i. Children have more space on usually cramped playgrounds.
 - ii. Fewer injuries from bumping into one another and older pupils knocking younger ones over.

- 3. Lunch hour reduced by 15 minutes**
 - i. Less time out in cold/wet/heat.
 - ii. Less opportunity for social issues and arguments to develop.
 - iii. As a result, less learning time is lost after lunch when dealing with the incidents. This often affects the whole class not just those individuals involved.

- iv. Less emotional turmoil for children involved with arguments etc. which has a detrimental impact on learning.
- v. More flexibility with supervision – ensuring better ratios of staff to pupils.

4. The flexible end of the day (currently takes 10 minutes)

This is more complicated than in the mornings but there are certainly benefits, particularly around safeguarding. The one way system and lay-by being restricted to the bus only ensures pedestrians can leave the site safely.

Section 3 = PROPOSAL

- Flexible Start 8.40 to 8.50
- Reduce lunch by 15mins **Gain 15 mins*
- Afternoon = break for KS2 (7-11year olds) reduced by 5 minutes to a 10 minute 'comfort break' rather than 'playtime'. This could be taken flexibly depending on type of learning in the afternoon. (15 minute break for Foundation Phase 3-7 year olds remains) **Gain 5 mins*
- End for all at 3.10 – (finish 20 minutes earlier to account for 20 minutes gained)
 NB: if we do have a 'staggered' approach to the end of the day, this would start at 3.10.
 Keep one way system in place at start and end of the day. School is seeking advice from the Local Authority on creating a permanent path.

FOUNDATION PHASE (Aged 3-7 - Suggested Hours are 21 hours per week)		
8.40 – 8.50	Staggered Start	
8.50 – 9.00	Registration	
9.00 – 10.10	Learning time	70 minutes
10.10 – 10.30	Worship	
10.30 – 12.05 (incl. 15m break – time tbc)	Learning Time	80 minutes (excl. break)
12.05 – 13.00	Lunch	
13.00 – 15.10 (incl. 15m break – time tbc)	Learning Time	115 minutes (excl. break)
15.10	End	
TOTAL		265 minutes per day = 22 hours per week

KEY STAGE 2 (Aged 7-11 – Suggested Hours are 23.5 hours per week)		
8.40 – 8.50	Staggered Start	
8.50 – 8.55	Registration	
8.55 – 10.10	Learning time	75 minutes
10.10 – 10.30	Worship	
10.30 – 12.15 (incl. 15m break – time tbc)	Learning Time	90 minutes (excl. break)
12.15 – 13.00	Lunch	
13.00 – 15.10 (incl. 10m comfort break)	Learning Time	120 minutes (excl. break)
15.10	End	
TOTAL		285 minutes per day = 23.75 hours per week

NURSERY		
Morning Session	8.50 – 11.20	2.5 hours per day
Afternoon Session	12.40 – 3.10	2.5 hours per day