



St. Bartholomew's Church of England Primary School
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24/05/19

Dear Parents and Carers,

Proposed Changes to the School Day

We are proposing to **shorten the length of the school day by 20 minutes** from **September 2019**. There is little or no evidence that a longer school day increases children's achievement. However, there is evidence to suggest that the opportunity to participate in alternative activities in an extended school period does have a positive effect on pupils' achievement. Likewise, from our parent questionnaires, a repeated request is for more (low cost) after school clubs. **Therefore, there will be a range of low cost, after school clubs run by teachers, throughout the year.** Wherever possible, these would utilise teacher skills but also children's requests and interests will also be considered.

It is also acknowledged that the workload of teachers in non-contact time is extensive but the importance of the planning, preparation and assessment time, should not be underestimated. It is this work that allows outstanding teachers to target their teaching to the specific needs of their pupils and to personalise the learning for groups and individuals. It will also allow them time to plan more exciting, creative opportunities. **There would be an expectation that the teachers would be developing and teaching a more creative curriculum.** Teachers would have the time to plan more trips and all the risk assessment and other paperwork that this involves. **There would be an expectation that each class had a trip or visiting speaker 3 times a year.**

There is no legal requirement on the length of the school day. The Department no longer provides guidance on minimum hours, however the previous guidance set out the following **suggested minimum weekly teaching times** as a guide for schools:

Age 5-7 21 hours
Age 8-11 23.5 hours

We would still be above these hours. The length of the school day does not include breaks, assemblies and lunch.

KS1			KS2		
Current Timings	Current length		Current Timings	Current length	
	Day	Week		Day	Week
8.55 – 3.20	275 mins 4hrs 35m	1375 mins 22hrs 55m	8.55 – 3.30	305 mins 5hrs 5m	1525 mins 25hrs 5m
Proposed Timings	Proposed length		Proposed Timings	Proposed length	
	Day	Week		Day	Week
8.55 – 3.00	255 mins 4hrs 15m	1275 mins 21hrs 15m	8.55 – 3.10	285 mins 4hrs 45m	1425 mins 23hrs 45m

Learning for Life within Christian Values



Starfish After School Club currently begins at 3.20pm. They have confirmed that they would be able to start from 3pm and continue to provide care for pupils until 6pm.

The Governing Body are in support of these proposals and will make the final decision based on the views of all stakeholders. Therefore, if you have a view in support or opposed to the changes, please email the school office by Friday 15th June. If you think there is something we haven't thought about, again, please email the school office.

I appreciate that these proposals will be welcomed by some parents and not by others but please rest assured that we are doing this in the best interests of the pupils.

Best Wishes

Katie Blood
Headteacher