



Downlands Community School
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Headteacher : Mr J Rielly

Friday 1st July 2022

Changing the school day length

Dear Parent,

I hope you and your family are well. I wanted to give you as much notice as possible about a necessary extension to the length of the school day at Downlands Community School.

In the recent DFE White Paper, [Opportunity for All – March 2022](#), it refers to:

“My school offers at least the minimum of 32.5 hours, which could mean extra time for English, maths, sport and arts.”

The 32.5 hour minimum expectation includes the time in each day from the official start of the school day (i.e. morning registration) to the official end to the compulsory school day (i.e. official home time). The 32.5 hour minimum includes breaks and lunch times as well as teaching time and any extra-curricular activities that all pupils are expected to attend. It does not include optional before or after school provision.

Currently at Downlands, the school day is between 0840hrs and 1500hrs. This equates to 380minutes per day and 31.7 hours per week: a deficit of about 50 minutes across the school week, behind the White Paper expectation.

In a governors' meeting on 22 April 2022, it was felt that a finish of 1515hrs was most sensible moving forward, in order to position us safely above the minimum expectation. Governors asked me to consult with parents once a firmer plan had been established.

The following are extra considerations that we have considered:

Parents with children in pre-school and in FS2 to Y6: The school day timings will remain the same for children in Dandelions. Nevertheless, there will be the opportunity for children to

attend an additional session from 2.50pm-3.15pm if required. The cost for this is will be confirmed.

After school club start time: The after school club sessions will be amended as follows

- 3.15 - 4.00pm £4.50 (*snack now included at no extra cost*)
- 4.00 - 5.00pm £9.00

Please could you respond to this survey which asks the following question:

When should the Downlands School day be extended to 1515hrs?

- a) From September 1st 2022
- b) From January 1st 2023
- c) From September 1st 2023

It also asks for any comments that may help us to manage this change.

Please respond to the survey (sent in a separate email). Upon receipt of your views, I will report back to Governors at our scheduled meeting on Tuesday 12th July

Since 2011, schools and headteachers have been given more freedoms to change the school day lengths ([see this website](#)). These powers coupled with the implication of the recent white paper give a clear mandate to act on this matter, so I thank you in advance for your feedback.

Yours sincerely



Mr J Rielly