



BENFIELD SCHOOL

PRIDE IN PERFORMANCE

Headteacher: Mr Richard Carr



Dear Parent/Carer

4 February 2019

Consultation on proposal to change the school day with effect from 1 September 2019

The school's Local Governing Committee has recently met to consider a proposal to change the school day from the start of the 2019-20 school year. The governors now wish to consult with parents/carers to seek your views, as well as those of staff and other stakeholders, and take these into account before making a decision at their next meeting planned for 7 March. I am leading the consultation on behalf of the governors.

What is the proposal?

Attached to this letter is a comparison of the current school day in 2018-19 and the proposed school day for 2019-20. The key changes if this proposal is implemented are:

- the school day would start 5 minutes earlier at 8.45am each day
- assembly or tutor time at the start of each school day would be extended from 15 to 25 minutes
- the school day would end 5 minutes later at 3.05pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
- although there would still be 5 lessons on Wednesday, each lesson would be 50 minutes rather than 1 hour with the end of the formal teaching day for students at 2.15pm followed by an increased offer of extra curricular activities from 2.15-4.00pm which all students would be strongly encouraged to participate in
- there would be six occasions during the school year when the school would close to all students at 2.15pm on Wednesdays.

We understand that changes to the start and end of the school day can be disruptive for families and the proposal aims to keep these to a minimum.

Why is this change being proposed?

In 2018-19 we are closing early to students on a total of 10 afternoons to enable teaching staff to take part in training and professional development opportunities. Our evaluation of the school is that we need more time to provide quality staff development and this needs to take place more frequently to ensure all our students receive the best possible teaching and learning. The proposed changes to the school day for 2019-20 will allow us to provide an improved extra curricular offer for students on Wednesdays at the same time as increasing professional development opportunities for teachers.

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What will be the extra curricular offer for students?

On Wednesdays students would be strongly encouraged to remain on-site from 2.15-4.00pm and take part in a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities e.g. craft, creative, technological, physical and visit-based nature workshops. These activities would be delivered in some instances by external agencies, with some supervised by support staff.

What implications does the proposal have for teaching time?

The amount of teaching/tutor contact time for students would remain broadly the same as at present with a small increase of 10 hours over the full school year. Although the length of lessons would be shorter on Wednesdays, it is intended that PSHE/Citizenship would be delivered in the extended morning tutor/assembly time rather than as a timetabled lesson, which would allow more teaching time for other subjects. In the case of Key Stage 4 students using tutor/assembly time for core subjects where students need extra support will provide an additional 100 minutes of teaching.

How can you respond to the consultation?

I hope that you support this proposal which we believe provides a better offer for students and staff and will enable our students to be successful.

I encourage parents/carers to share their views with me by completing and returning the enclosed response sheet where you can indicate whether you agree or disagree with the proposal and make comments. You can also make a formal response in writing if you wish please address this to Lilian Reeson, PA to Headteacher, Benfield School, Benfield Road, Newcastle NE6 4NU or email lilian.reeson@benfield.newcastle.sch.uk

This initial consultation will last four weeks during term-time **until 12 noon on Monday 4th March** and therefore any verbal or written responses must be received by then so they can be taken into account when the governors meet later that week.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R Carr". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a blue horizontal line.

Richard Carr
Headteacher

Current Benfield School Day – 2018-19

Monday-Friday	Timetable
8:50am – 9:05am	Assembly or Extended Tutor Time (15 mins)
9:05am – 10:05am	Lesson 1 (60 mins)
10:05am – 11:05am	Lesson 2 (60 mins)
11:05am – 11:20am	Morning Break (15 mins)
11:20am – 12:20pm	Lesson 3 (60 mins)
12:20pm – 13:00pm	Lunch Break (40 mins)
13:00pm – 14:00pm	Lesson 4 (60 mins)
14:00pm – 15:00pm*	Lesson 5 (60 mins)

* apart from 10 occasions during school year when school closes early to students

Proposed Benfield New School Day – from September 2019

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	Timetable	Wednesday	Timetable
8:45am – 9:10am	Assembly or Extended Tutor Time (25 mins)	8:45am – 9:10am	Assembly or Extended Tutor Time (25 mins)
9:10am – 10:10am	Lesson 1 (60 mins)	9:10am – 10:00am	Lesson 1 (50 mins)
10:10am – 11:10am	Lesson 2 (60 mins)	10:00am – 10:50am	Lesson 2 (50 mins)
11:10am – 11:25am	Morning Break (15 mins)	10:50am – 11:05am	Morning Break (15 mins)
11:25am – 12:25pm	Lesson 3 (60 mins)	11:05am – 11:55am	Lesson 3 (50 mins)
12:25pm – 13:05pm	Lunch Break (40 mins)	11:55am – 12:35pm	Lunch Break (40 mins)
13:05pm – 14:05pm	Lesson 4 (60 mins)	12:35pm – 13:25pm	Lesson 4 (50 mins)
14:05pm – 15:05pm	Lesson 5 (60 mins)	13:25pm – 14:15pm	Lesson 5 (50 mins)
		14:15pm – 16:00pm*	Student Extra Curricular Activities (105 mins)

* apart from 6 occasions during school year when school would close to students at 2.15pm

