

6th May 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Proposed Changes to School Session Times

I am writing to advise you that like some other Hull schools/academies we would like to change our school day to allow us to maximise the most focused delivery of education for your children.

You may have heard about the recently published White Paper – March 28th 2022 which directs us on how we can continue to improve education by leading on changes:

As highlighted in the white paper:

'At the heart of these ambitions is the need for an excellent teacher for every child in classrooms across England' (p8 White Paper). This calls for:

- Increased amount of the curriculum is taught by a teacher maximising pupil's learning and development and subsequent life opportunities.
- Increased consistency in lines of communications for parents/carers

Directors and other leaders in the Trust are committed to providing the highest possible quality of education for our pupils here at St Charles' and will never stop pursuing the best possible outcomes for your children.

To increase the amount of curriculum taught by teachers, we will need to adopt a different approach to the way we deploy our staff. All teachers are contractually entitled to 10% planning, preparation and assessment (PPA) time out of their class. In essence this equates to around half a day per week for each and every teacher in our Trust (and across the UK). Also, new entrants to the teaching profession, whilst they complete their qualification and training, have a contractual entitlement to an additional 10% professional development time (a further half a day = 2 half days away from their classroom). This means that this time cannot be spent in class teaching children.

In order that we can meet the Trust commitment to deliver the highest possible quality of education *and* our contractual obligation to our teaching staff, we see no other way but to reconsider the way in which teachers currently take their PPA time and the way in which we cover their absence from the classroom whilst they are doing this.

This will involve a slightly longer school day for pupils on four days with an earlier finish on a Thursday. This proposal will allow our teachers to work in school to plan lessons or to review work in books or assess progress information. It will also create more opportunities for sharing practice and developing others.

At a recent meeting, Directors accepted our proposal to consult with all stakeholders regarding the proposal to change the daily school session times, and for all teachers to undertake their PPA time, at the same time each week. This would mean that all primary schools in the Trust will close at 1:30pm each Thursday (subject to consultation – your suggestions and ideas are welcomed). Please see the table below:

	School day starts	School Day ends
Monday	8:35	3:30
Tuesday	8:35	3:30
Wednesday	8:35	3:30
Thursday	8:35	1:30
Friday	8:35	3:30

Currently the school day within each of our primary academies varies from academy to academy; changing this for all primaries is another way to enhance the Trust aims to have a standardised approach to systems across the Trust (wherever this is possible), enhancing the delivery of education.

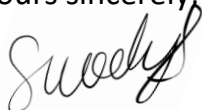
The huge advantage to this is that across the Trust, the average amount of hours your child is being taught by their own highly trained class teacher, will increase from 85% to at least 95%.

We understand the impact upon parents/carers in changing the session times, however we will provide an alternative provision for working parents/carers to minimise any potential issues arising with their childcare arrangements. The distinct benefit to you and your child/children is securing their high-quality education, and maximising their learning and development and subsequent life opportunities. Additionally, teacher to parent/carer communication and school knowledge of your child will be optimised. We hope that you will agree there are many advantages to the proposed changes.

We have not taken this decision lightly and a great deal of thought and discussion has taken place. If you have any comments/suggestions/alternative ideas you would like to share, please put them in writing to the consultation email address consultation@smchull.org, before 20th May 2022, at 12:00 noon, and I will ensure they are considered by our Trust Directors.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Woodmansey
Head of School