

St. Chad's Catholic and Church of England High School

a Specialist Language College & EAL Centre for Halton

Executive Headteacher

Mr A S Billings BA(Hons) PGCE MA NPQH
National Leader of Education

Head of School

Mrs D Burke BA(Hons) PGCE NPQH
25th September 2015

Dear Parents/Carers



The Governors Decision on the Extension of the School Day from 2nd November 2015 (that is commencing after half term)

The Governors would like to thank all parents/carers who responded to the recent consultation on the length of the school day which ran from 7 July to 18 September 2015. A total of only 16 parental responses were received with 10 responses in favour of an extension: 2 for option 1 (10 minutes) and 6 responses in favour of option 2 (20 minutes), 2 responses for either and 6 objections. The student body is made up of almost 1,200 students and the consultation was opened to all parents/carers. This response rate suggests that there are a large number for whom the issue of an extension of the school day by 20 minutes is not contentious. Attention was drawn to the consultation through texts and letters on 2 occasions, 2 occasions by text and on the website over the period.

The decision

The decision the Governors have therefore made is to approve the second of the two proposals (20 minutes). **This means that, from Monday 2nd November 2015, the school day will finish at 3.10pm.**

The reasons for the decision

The benefits of this decision relate to the rationale presented in the consultation letters (1 July 2015). The direct benefits of this decision are:

1. Ending disruption to learning caused by the split lunch arrangements.
2. Enable the quality of teaching and learning to be more easily monitored.
3. Extending social time available for students and staff to eat.
4. Easing congestion in the newly extended dining facilities.
5. Making possible more break/lunch study clubs, visits to the library and extracurricular activity during the school day.

Addressing concerns

The governors have also studied closely the responses from parents and determined that the decision will also involve:

- Monitoring the impact of the decision on the attainment, safety and well-being of students and staff.
- Continuing to improve social spaces and facilities for break time. (Such as dedicated play spaces, one way systems, staggered sittings etc.)

A surgery will be held on **Wednesday 30 September 3.30-5.00pm** for one to one appointments for parents who would like to discuss the practicalities and implications of the decision – to see if the school can offer any further help or explanation to parents if desired. The Executive Headteacher, Head of School, the Leadership team and Governors would like to thank all parents for engaging with the consultation and would sincerely like to discuss further with any parents who have remaining concerns or a need for more information.

Yours sincerely

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Head of School

Mrs J Lawrence
Chair of Governors