



Archibald First School
Archibald Street
Gosforth
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE3 1EB

Headteacher Mrs R Turner

0191 285 1957
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www.archibaldfirstschool.co.uk

12th October 2022

Re: Proposal to change the length of the school day

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to let you know of some proposed changes to the structure of the school day here at Archibald First School and the reasons for these.

In the spring of 2022, the Government produced a white paper for schools which detailed the expectation for all schools to offer a 32.5-hour week by September 2023. This is equivalent to a school day of 8.45am to 3.15pm for every school aged child. In light of this, our planned change is to amend the official start time of the school day:

Current Arrangements

Doors open 8.45am closing 10 minutes later at 8.55am

School starts 8.55am

School closes 3.15pm

Planned Arrangements

Doors open 8.40am (5 minutes earlier) closing 5 minutes later at 8.45am

School starts 8.45am (10 minutes earlier)

School closes 3.15pm

We are consulting to reduce the 'entry' to school time to 5 minutes and to bring this forward by 5 minutes. The impact of this will be to bring forward the official start time of school by 10 minutes.

These ten minutes of additional learning time each day equate to nearly 1 hour of learning per week and over 3 hours of additional learning time per month.

Mornings are a peak learning time for children and the decision to add the ten minutes here allows us to capitalise on this.

All of our support staff are employed from 8.30am which also ensures we have all of our staff on site ready to start the day with the children.

Enrichment activities would likely begin at 8.00 or 8.10am each morning (provider dependent).

Our neighbouring school, Gosforth Junior Academy, which educates many siblings requires children to be on site by 8.30am and their official start time is 8.40am. The doors opening at 8.40am should reduce waiting time for our families after dropping older siblings off.

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The Headteacher's of the Gosforth Schools' Trust schools continue to work closely together. Following our discussions, the vast majority of the 11 schools are consulting / have consulted to amend their school day to 8.45 am - 3.15 pm.

As a part of this consultation, and in light of the proposed shorter drop off time, we strongly advocate ALL our families walking, cycling or scooting to school to prevent congestion and pollution near the school. If driving is essential, please park away from Archibald Street. We continue to promote an active and healthy start to the day for all, and remain eager to work with the local council on a school's street project should our area be deemed appropriate.

In conclusion, we believe that this change will in fact be really positive for our children, as it will enable us to start our morning earlier and deliver more high-quality provision for all of our children.

The information in this letter has been sent to the parents, staff, breakfast club providers (onsite and offsite), enrichment club providers and governors. We will make sure to work together so that there is minimal disruption.

We appreciate that these changes may affect you, in terms of childcare or working arrangements, and in terms of your child's education. For this reason, we would like to invite you to give your feedback by sending your responses in writing FAO Mrs. Turner and the Chair of Governors, Archibald First School, Archibald Street, Gosforth, Newcastle, NE31EB or via email to governors@archibaldfirstschool.co.uk by 23rd November 2022. We will aim to release the results of the consultation by 22nd December 2022 and communicate the outcome with you.

Should the changes be approved, they will come into force from 27th February 2023.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Turner
Headteacher

Dr Mark Moss

Co-Chair of Governors

Matt Brown

Co-Chair of Governors

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