

24.5.24

Dear Parents / Guardians

**Parent Consultation- Length of the School Day**

Thank you for engaging with the consultation around the length of the school day in our Partnership of Schools.

**Reason for the changes**

In March 2022, the Government introduced a non-statutory expectation of a 32.5 hour minimum core school week by September 2023. In July 2023 the deadline to meet this expectation was deferred to September 2024 at the latest, in recognition of the pressures facing schools.

**Current situation**

Bellingham Primary- short by 75 minutes

Bellingham Middle- longer by 50 minutes

**New arrangement from June 3rd**

To bring both schools into alignment and to meet DFE compliance these will be the new start and end times to the schools’ day. I have also detailed any new arrangements:

**8.30- Doors open in both schools.**

Bellingham Middle School children are to come through the main door and filter down to classes. This is a 15 minute window where children will make their way to class for registration. Due to the 15 minute ‘window’ there will be no change to the taxi and bus pick up times in the morning.

**8.45am Registration**

**3.15pm End of school day**

All school transport has been arranged for this new finish time for both schools.

During the consultation parents responded in an overwhelmingly positive way. For the very few points that have been raised, I have tried to find some solutions which I have explained below and hope that they help.

You said- You were worried about an earlier pick up for bus children

We did- There is no alteration to morning pick up times due to the 15 minute ‘window’ every morning. Children get off buses within this ‘window’.

You said- You were worried about too much traffic on Redesmouth Road dropping off lots of children at the same time.

We did - We have researched the number of children being dropped off by car. We have designated the top (BPS) as a parent only car park. Staff will be parking elsewhere. Parents should use this.

You said- It was a long wait from 8.30 start if you are dropping a younger child off at North Tynies.

We did- As long as children are entering school by 8.40 for their 8.45 registration this should only be an extra wait of 5 minutes if you have a younger child starting Tynies at 9am.

You said- You were worried about older children potentially knocking younger children over in a rush at the end of day.

We did- We have scheduled adults to be on duty at the end of the day to oversee children walking in a sensible manner to buses and off school sites. This is an opportunity for older children to be role models for our younger children.

Thank you for adapting to these changes.

Yours sincerely



Catriona Powell

Interim Headteacher

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| **Uniform**   * Colour preference? * Views on preferred colour of jumper for each school or one colour across both? |  |
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| **Any Other Suggestions** |  |
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