



Lourdes Secondary School
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Head Teacher
Gerry McGuigan MA(Hons)

June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you and your loved ones are keeping safe and well during this extremely challenging time for our school community. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you or your family require support and I will do my very best to help.

As we approach the summer holidays, it is important that I provide you with some detail around our plans for pupils returning to school in August. The information below outlines how we plan to structure the school day and provides information in relation to each yeargroup:

The school week will be organised in 10 teaching blocks – 5 morning and 5 afternoon blocks.

For S4 – S6 each teaching block will be 3 hours long

For S1 – S3 each teaching block will be 2.5 hours.

The timings of the school day will be as follows:

Yeargroup	Block 1	Lunch/Turnaround	Block 2
S4 – S6	8:45am – 11:45am	11:45am – 12:30pm	12:30pm – 3:30pm
S1 – S3	9:15am – 11:45am	11:45am – 12:45pm	12:45pm – 3:15pm

All pupils will attend **one** teaching block each day. In addition S4 on two days will attend for two blocks. Pupils will be taught in one subject, by one teacher, for the duration of the block. They will not change class as they would in a normal timetable.

Year group plans are as follows:

S5/6

The majority of pupils in S5/6 study 5 subjects. Pupils will receive teaching in all of their elected National Qualifications subjects. Pupils will attend one subject each day which will be delivered in one 3-hour block. While we will make every effort to timetable pupils for 5 mornings or 5 afternoons, this may not be possible due to individual subject combinations.

S4

S4 pupils study 7 subjects and will receive teaching in all 7 of their National Qualifications subjects.

The pattern of attendance for S4 will be:

Monday	Full Day
Tuesday	Half Day
Wednesday	Half Day
Thursday	Full Day
Friday	Half Day

When pupils are in for a half day, they will attend in the morning **or** in the afternoon. Like S5/6, we will aim to ensure pupils are timetabled for either 3 mornings or 3 afternoons on the half days but this may not be possible due to individual subject choices.

S3

S3 will attend school every day for a half day. Pupils will receive teaching in all of their core and elected subjects. We will try to timetable pupils for 5 mornings or 5 afternoons but, again, this may not be possible due to subject choices.

S1/2

S1/2 pupils will also attend school every day for a half day. S1/2 pupils follow the same curriculum model and it is our intention to attempt to timetable S1/2 pupils for either 5 morning or 5 afternoon blocks each week.

The rationale for this model has the following aims:

- A maximum of 15 pupils in any one class
- To provide as full a curriculum as possible for as many pupils as possible. In a restricted model it is not possible to offer all children a full curriculum but we will provide as much as possible.
- To have all pupils attend school every day (for at least part of the day)
- To attempt to minimise risk and ensure the safety of pupils and staff (a full risk assessment has been completed for the return of staff in June and for the return of pupils in August). Teaching blocks of 3 or 2.5 hours eliminate the normal movement of pupils every 45 minutes greatly reducing the number of contacts for both pupils and staff.

Starting times for both mornings and afternoons have been staggered to further reduce pupil contact. Pupils who attend for mornings only can leave at 11.45am or leave after accessing the Cafeteria for a school lunch. Pupils who attend for afternoon only can come into school during lunchtime from 12 noon onwards to access the Cafeteria for a lunch or arrive in time for afternoon class.

Next week, we will be working to allocate pupils to morning or afternoon teaching blocks and we plan to provide you with this information and, if possible, a copy of their full timetable before the end of the school term.

Many thanks for all you continue to do to support your child(ren) in their learning and for all you are doing to support our school community at this time.

Kind regards

Gerry McGuigan

Headteacher