

# Change of Hours Consultation – Parent & Carer Survey

Drymen Primary invited parents and carers to provide feedback on the proposed change of school day timings.

The proposed changes would be:

Start of the School Day: 9.00am

Morning Break: 10.30am-10.45am

Lunch: 12.15pm -1.15pm

End of the School Day: 3.15pm

Parents/carers were invited to a discussion group to discuss the proposed changes, to ask any questions and make comments. A minute of this meeting is available on the school website.

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| <b>Are you in favour of the proposed change to the school timings?</b> | <b>Yes</b><br>54% | <b>No</b><br>44% | <b>Neither for or Against</b><br>2% |
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| <p><b>What, if any, advantages do you see for children in terms of removing the afternoon break and the end of the school day changing to 3:15pm?</b></p> | <p><b>Main themes from parent/carers survey:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An earlier finishing time would make it easier for children to get to after school clubs.</li> <li>• It would be less dark for children walking home or cycling home in the winter.</li> <li>• An earlier finishing time increases the time children will be able to spend with family at home.</li> <li>• Uninterrupted learning in the afternoon, less disruptive by removing an additional transition.</li> <li>• Greater flexibility for teaching by removing the break.</li> <li>• Reduces learning time being lost through stopping and preparing for a break and time spend resettling after the break.</li> <li>• 3.15pm finish is in line with majority of other schools</li> </ul> |
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| <p><b>What, if any, disadvantages do you see for children in terms of removing the afternoon break and the end of the school day changing to 3:15pm?</b></p> | <p><b>Main themes from parent/carers survey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Childcare arrangements – adjusting parents' working patterns to collect children at 3.15pm rather than 3.30pm.</li> <li>• Less social time with friends</li> <li>• No formal break in the afternoon, which could impact concentration</li> <li>• Loss of outdoor learning opportunities</li> </ul> |
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## Change of Hours Consultation – Parent & Carer Survey

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Length of afternoon session – too long</li><li>• Requiring water or a snack in the afternoon session</li></ul> |
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**During our Parent & Carer focus group, the senior leadership team and a class teacher representative discussed each of the concerns/comments raised from the survey.**

### **Main themes from parent/carers survey**

- Childcare arrangements – adjusting parents' working patterns to collect children at 3.15pm rather than 3.30pm

The proposed change focuses on the impact on children's learning in school and timings which maximize high quality learning. The senior leadership team explained that a supervised after school club could be in place from 3.15pm-3.30pm for children of families whose working patterns make it challenging to change collection time to 3.15pm. We would want to support families with childcare arrangements whilst fully utilizing the benefits of the proposed change on children's learning.

- Less social time with friends

All children would still have opportunities for play and socializing at first break (15 minutes) and during Drymen's 60 minute lunch break. All children would be taking part in class based activities, indoors and outdoors, during the afternoon session with their friends.

- No formal break in the afternoon which could impact concentration

Children would not be expected to be in their classroom or completing the same activity for the full afternoon. Depending on the age and stage of the child, we would expect a variety of tasks to be planned with natural breaks between; but also the flexibility for longer, more sustained projects when appropriate. Classes typically take PE outdoors when the weather is appropriate and initiatives like the Kilometre Club will ensure children learn in a variety of ways. Observations within the school indicate the transition to the 15 minute break can be disruptive and interrupt learning and teaching.

- Loss of outdoor learning opportunities

We don't anticipate removing the afternoon break would result in a loss of outdoor learning time. Occasionally, under the current model, outdoor learning experiences are interrupted by the afternoon break, as children have to return back to the school with their teacher to be supervised in the playground.

- Length of afternoon session – too long

The proposed session of 1.15pm -3.15pm (two hours) would be similar with many other primary schools with an afternoon of this length. During this period, pupils would not be expected to engage in just one or a small number of tasks for a prolonged period of time. Teachers would be expected to carefully plan and timetable activities of a suitable length to maximize learning, indoors and outdoors.

Feedback from two head teachers in our learning community (with the same afternoon model) spoke positively of the length of this session and not being interrupted.

- Requiring water or a snack in the afternoon session

## Change of Hours Consultation – Parent & Carer Survey

All children will have access to water during the afternoon session. An additional snack could be provided for their lunch or when children get home if this is required.