



Drymen Primary School
Old Gartmore Road
Drymen
G63 0DY

Tel. 01360 660410
Headteacher: Patrick Robertson
Email: drymenps@stirling.gov.uk

Monday 26th April 2021

Drymen Primary School Timings Consultation Summary

Dear parent/carer,

Drymen Primary has been consulting with our children, staff, families and other stakeholders regarding the timings of the school day. 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

The current afternoon break of 2.15pm-2.30pm would be removed.

This consultation is in its final stages and we thought it would be helpful to provide families with a summary of the consultation activities which have taken place to date.

In addition, the senior leadership will be sampling families this week via telephone to discuss the proposed changes. If you would like to be involved in this, please contact Mrs Strachan. A third and final focus group meeting, for any parent or carers who have not been able to attend our two previous groups, will take place via Microsoft Teams **on Wednesday 5th May at 4:00pm.** If you would like to attend to ask any questions or share views on the changes, again, please contact Mrs Strachan and you will receive an invite.

With thanks,

Patrick Robertson
Head Teacher

Consultation Activity: Parent & Carer Survey (December 2020 & January 2021)

Are you in favour of the proposed changes? **Yes 54%** **No 44 %** **Neither for or Against 2%**

Main themes from parent survey around the advantages of the proposed changes.

- An earlier finishing time would make it easier for children to get to after school clubs.
- It would be less dark for children walking home or cycling home in the winter.
- An earlier finishing time increases the time children will be able to spend with family at home.
- Uninterrupted learning in the afternoon, less disruptive by removing an additional transition.
- Greater flexibility for teaching by removing the break.
- Reduces learning time being lost through stopping and preparing for a break and time spend resettling after the break.

Main themes from parent survey around the disadvantages of the proposed changes.

- Requiring water or a snack in the afternoon session
- Childcare arrangements – adjusting parents’ working patterns to collect children at 3.15pm rather than 3.30pm.
- Less social time with friends
- No formal break in the afternoon, which could impact concentration
- Loss of outdoor learning opportunities
- Length of afternoon session – too long

Following the parent survey, the Senior Leadership Team at Drymen Primary held two focus groups with families. **Agreed during the focus groups should the proposed change be approved, was to provide an after-school provision from 3.15pm-3.30pm, likely supervised by a support for learning assistant, to support parents’ whose working patterns create challenges in a change of pick-up time from 3.30pm to 3.15pm.**

A minute of both focus groups is available on our website.

[Change of Timings Consultation Overview | Drymen Primary School \(glowscotland.org.uk\)](https://www.glowscotland.org.uk/drymen/consultation/consultation-overview)

Consultation Activity: Teaching & Support Staff Survey (February 2021)

All support and teaching staff were in favour of the proposed changes.

Main themes from staff survey around the advantages of the proposed changes.

- More effective use of learning time. Learning time lost as a result of the afternoon break in preparation for and after the break.
- Observations indicate that following the afternoon break, engagement within a lesson can be impacted negatively due to the additional transition.
- Greater flexibility to plan and deliver longer, uninterrupted lessons or projects, especially in P5-7.
- Easier access to after school professional learning activities/courses in Stirling with extra time to travel.
- Support staff spoke of having more time to provide focused support to individuals and groups during the afternoon session, without the supervision requirements of an

afternoon break.

Consultation Activity: Children P1-P7

Are you in favour of the proposed changes? **Yes 47%** **No 31%** **Neither for or Against 22%**

Main themes from pupil survey around the advantages of the proposed changes.

- Increased time after school for hobbies and interests
- More time to get to after school clubs
- Teacher does not need to repeat instructions or go over lesson again
- Increased time to play with friends after school
- More time with family and pets
- Lighter when walking home

Main themes from pupil survey around the disadvantages of the proposed changes.

- Fresh air required in the afternoon
- Less time to play outside
- Less time with friends in the playground who don't live near you
- Getting an afternoon snack
- Energy boost from going outdoors.
- Better weather during second break.

As part of the consultation process, Drymen Primary discussed the proposed changes with a range of other departments to review their ability to provide their services within the contractual cost limits. No concerns were raised by any service, including:

- School Transport
- Catering
- Cleaning

Consultation Activity: Learning Community Head Teachers

No concerns were identified with all head teachers within the Balfour Learning Community regarding the proposed changes. Two Head Teachers commented on potential advantages of the proposed model.

- "Our afternoon session is uninterrupted which provides a free flow for learning in the afternoon."
- "As Drymen is in a rural setting, teaching and support staff would be able to access CLPL (career long professional learning) easier within Stirling or in other schools."