



January 2020

Dear Parent/Carers

Consultation on the length of the school day at Great Sankey

On behalf of the governing body I am writing to inform you of some proposed changes to the structure of the school day at Great Sankey.

As you are aware for 2019/20 morning and afternoon tutor registration were merged and five minutes removed from period 2. This was then placed alongside lunch time so that half of the school would be on lunch and the other half in tutor time (with a 10 minute overlap in the middle).

This enabled us to create a daily 20 minute tutor time slot which has been used to deliver assemblies and intervention for all year groups as well as improve lunchtime supervision and facilitate the use of the astro-turf (and in due course the new sport hall and drama studio).

With increasing evidence around the benefits of knowledge retrieval in improving GCSE results, the statutory requirement to deliver Relationship Education from September 2020 and our ambition to increase the breadth and depth of our curriculum yet still continue to deliver our 'Skills for Success' programme and maintain our commitment to promoting reading; further amendments are needed.

Governors have been working with the senior leadership team and are proposing to lengthen the school day by 15 minutes, with school starting as usual at 8.25 and then finishing at 2.40 (15 minutes later than we currently do). This will facilitate five x 1 hour lessons a day and a 30 minute tutor time which will enable us to deliver our ambitious curriculum as well as assemblies for year groups and houses on a daily basis. The difference from 2018/19 to 2020/21 will be an additional 2 ½ hours of learning a week. This equates to almost an extra four weeks of learning a year.

Should these changes be approved, they will come into force from September 2020 and, I believe, will be of significant benefit to students across the school both academically and pastorally.



The information in this letter has also been sent to our school bus provider, local primary partner schools and the Local Authority.

I 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, I would like to invite you to give feedback by sending your responses to consultation@greatsankey.org Our consultation opens today and closes on Friday 7 February at 12.30pm Responses will be considered throughout the consultation period and a final decision will be made before Friday 28 February.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Platt', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael Platt

Chair of Governors