



National Teaching School
designated by



National College for
Teaching & Leadership

Dear Parent/ Carer

Following the recent consultation regarding changing the times of the school day I write to inform you of the governing body's considerations and decision.

Research exists that raises concern about starting the school day too early and the negative impact on exam results, while examples of schools starting before 8.20am exist they are the exception rather than the rule. In addition, we also asked the school to conduct some analysis of student punctuality and have found that an even earlier start would likely result in a significant increase in students being late for school. Furthermore, while the school benefits from finishing before 3pm during the winter, starting earlier would result in more students travelling to school (particularly those walking and cycling) in darkness.

During the process governors received thirty responses and sought feedback from bus companies and the Local Authority. Governors considered the option of: leaving the school day as it is, extending the school day by the 15 minutes proposed, starting 15 minutes earlier or distributing the additional 15 minutes with a proportion being before school and the remainder at the end. Governors also reviewed the costs and impact of extending the school day against the benefits of the additional learning time and our ability to deliver our ambitious curriculum.

While the consultation was taking place the school has been working with the Local Authority with a view to improving traffic light congestion in and around the Livewire centre at the end of the school day. The school is also working towards reducing the number of meetings for staff to provide more clubs and extra-curricular activities for students after school from September 2020.

After careful consideration of the feedback provided and the long term benefits to students, the governors have agreed unanimously to extend the school day by 15 minutes from September 2020. School will continue to start at 8.25 and from the new academic year will finish at 2.40pm on each day.

Governors are ambitious to deliver an exceptional learning experience for students at Great Sankey and appreciate your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Michael Platt

Chair of Governors

