

To the Teaching staff,

I would like your support with my proposal to reduce break time for KS2 children. Break and lunchtime at **Yarm Primary School** make up a total of 6 hours and 40 minutes throughout the week. In my opinion, that is a significant amount of time being wasted. During their time outside, many children are simply running around and not participating in learning. There can also be many issues with behaviour and have been some instances of other children being hurt by others. My suggestion is to remove first break entirely and reduce lunchtime from 60 minutes (one hour) to 30 minutes (half an hour), which is adequate time for the children to eat, use the toilet and get some fresh air. I have outlined my reasons below.

First and foremost, a school's purpose is for children to learn and children get to play when they are at home. Although some may argue that break-time is vital for children to relax throughout the day. I disagree because they are able to relax from 3pm (when our school day ends) until their bedtimes. Additionally, children have the weekends and school holidays to play. Increasing the amount of learning time is crucial for the children because it will increase the progress they make especially given the COVID pandemic.

Furthermore, statistics show that break and lunch times are when the school has to deal with the most friendship problems and medical emergencies. By reducing the amount of time the children are at break, we will reduce the chances of children falling out with each other. In addition, the increased amount of learning time will allow us to spend more time teaching PSHE, where we can equip the children with strategies to deal with friendship problems in the future.

Finally, I strongly believe that it is a waste of a teacher's time to look after children at break. Reducing the amount of break time will reduce the amount of time teachers have to spend supervising children and allow more time for them to support others with their learning.

To conclude, I consider it my responsibility to do what is best for the children (even if they may disagree). Consequently, they will perform better in their assessments, have fewer friendship problems and be well prepared for the challenges of later years and secondary school.

Yours sincerely,  
Unnamed School Governor