



Bird's Bush Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Sharon Barnes

Consultation regarding the proposal to change the structure of the school day

Parent Consultation meetings – 18th January 2018

Meeting 1 attendance: Headteacher, 2 members of the IEB, 5 staff and 12 parents

Meeting 2 attendance: Headteacher, 2 members of the IEB, 4 staff and 17 parents.

Questions raised:

Q: Why are we thinking of changing the times?

A: It is a statutory requirement that all teachers receive 10% release time from their class commitments for Planning, Preparation and Assessment (PPA), currently teachers have this at different times during the week. This means that if we want teachers to work together to support each other and share expertise they have to be out of their class for more time. By arranging PPA at the same time for all teachers we have more opportunity for working together during PPA and more time with their own class the rest of the week. This will give more stability and continuity for the children which will help their learning.

Q: The reduction is 2 hours but only 50 minutes extra, where will the time be made up?

A: Teaching time will still be above the recommended minimum as it will be 23 hours 50 minutes. The recommended time is 21.5 hours for Key stage 1 and 23 hours for Key stage 2.

Q: Other schools in the Trust already do this, do they charge for childcare?

A: No, there is no charge for childcare from 1.15pm until 3.15pm on the Friday afternoon

Q: In the childcare afternoon, will the children be split into age groups?

A: Yes, the children will be grouped so that they are working in smaller groups appropriate to their age

Q: Does this affect school holidays? Will they be shorter?

A: No, there is no change to the holidays

Q: How much notice for letters from employers?

A: The consultation period ends on 5th February and more information will be sent to parents after this. The planned start is not until after the Easter Holidays which is around 6 weeks' notice.

Q: How long have the other schools been doing this?

A: Schools in the Perry Hall MAT have been doing this since last September but there are other schools in different areas that have this structure in place. In Scotland it is the standard organisation for schools and has been for over 20 years.

Q: I work nights but not every week, would I still be able to use the childcare?

A: Yes, it would be available when you needed it, just let us know your shift pattern.

Q: Would the childcare come under the OFSTED framework?

A: Yes, it would be inspected as part of the school under the childcare element.

Q: Why haven't other Tamworth schools done this?

A: The other local schools have been informed about the consultation. Schools are free to choose their own structure, in some areas this arrangement is more common than others.

Q: Can the lunchbreak on Friday be reduced?

A: The children currently have 50 minutes lunchbreak and reducing this would make it quite rushed for children to eat lunch and have some time to play, we would also struggle to get all of the children served, so we are not currently thinking about reducing it.

Q: Can the children be given extra work to complete at home in the extra 2 hours?

A: We already provide homework and other activities and there are suggestions for supporting your child at home on the Curriculum passport booklets. We can provide some ideas for educational Apps if parents wish.

Q: Who would cover the Friday afternoon?

A: The childcare would be provided by some of our experienced Teaching Assistants who know our children and our expectations well.

Q: Is it possible to have a trial period to see if it works?

A: Yes, a trial period can be discussed by the board.

Q: Will children of non-working parents be disadvantaged by missing out on the activities on a Friday afternoon?

A: Other clubs will still be run at lunchtimes and afterschool on other days of the week.

Q: What provision is there for parents who don't work but have other children in Nursery, that doesn't finish until 3.15pm?

A: Nursery cannot accommodate older children during the nursery session and we have no control over the arrangements they make with individual parents for the care of their children.

Q: How do staff feel about the plan?

A: Staff are very positive about the opportunity to work more collaboratively and share ideas and expertise.

Q: Will the staff who currently cover PPA lose hours?

A: No, we do not plan to make any reductions as a result of this proposal. The hours that are currently deployed for PPA cover will be rearranged to give more support for children at other times in the week.

