



12<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear parents and carers

### **Consultation: Changing the School Day**

We are writing to seek your views on introducing changes to the school day for Enable Trust schools from September 2024. The changes, timescale and rationale for change are set out in this communication.

#### **Why change the school day from its current format?**

We believe that these changes could be a significant benefit to all our schools and, with the additional time created by having a slightly shorter school day for pupils, we could improve in the following areas:

- Pupil progress and attainment; we would like to provide ring-fenced time for the class teams to reflect on the school day; what worked well and less well, and to engage in discussion to agree adapted/enhanced strategies for pupils for the following day.
- Preparation of high-quality learning resources for the following day. Special schools require a much higher number of shorter learning activities than their mainstream counterparts to engage learners and break their learning down into smaller milestones. Due to their shorter length, the quantity required is higher which can take a substantial time to create.
- Engagement with internal and external specialists and professionals; this will enable staff to discuss any barriers to learning and identify solutions.
- High-quality staff training; a slightly earlier finish will enable us to provide mini training sessions, and collaboration and best practice sessions, which will improve classroom practice and, as a result, outcomes for pupils.
- Health and safety training; the slightly shorter school day will allow time for essential online health and safety training. Special schools require more health and safety training than their mainstream counterparts and 'Inset' days alone do not provide sufficient time to complete all the required training.

Furthermore, shortening the school day can enhance pupil well-being in the following areas, leading to improved learning outcomes:

- *Fatigue*; the children and young people travel further to school than their mainstream peers, often spending 80 to 180 minutes PER DAY on school transport. Staff and parents/carers report that pupil fatigue, especially towards the end of each term, impacts on comfort, happiness, behaviour and learning, especially when they get home after a long day.
- *Medical*; many of our children have complex, fluctuating, medical needs. Adhering to documented Care Plans is essential for keeping the children safe and well, and ensuring we are compliant with health and safety requirements. These documents can change frequently and it is vital that we have sufficient quality time for staff to review the changes and information and / or procedures.

We are proposing that each school day will begin and end at the times outlined in the tables below, which includes examples of school timetables, though these may vary depending on the needs, focus and activity of the pupils. Currently, the school day starts at 8.55am and ends at 3.30pm.

Time	Culverhill School
8.55am	Registration
9:00 – 10:30	Core subjects
10:30 – 10:45	Break
10:45 – 12:15	Core Subjects
12:15 – 1:15	Lunch – Play Pod & Astro football
1:15 – 2:00	Foundation subjects
2:00 – 3:00	Foundation subjects
3.05pm	Home

Time	New Siblands School & Two Bridges Academy
8.55am	Registration
9.00 – 10.00	Lesson 1
10.00 – 10.30	Lesson 2/snack
10.30 – 11.00	Break – play fully supervised and supported by class team
11.00 – 12.00	Lesson 3
12.00 – 1.00	Lunchbreak – eating and play fully supervised and supported by class team
1.00 – 2.00	Lesson 4
2.00 – 2.30	Lesson 5 / Afternoon break – fully supervised by class team
2.30 – 3.00	Lesson 6
3.05pm	Home

As part of the process we have benchmarked the school day times with other Special Schools:

School	Start time	End time
Bettridge	8.50	3.10
Exeter House	8.45	2.45
New Fosseyway	8.50	3.15
Silverwood	8.50	3.10
The Shrubberies	8.55	2.55
Warmley Park	8.55	3.15

### Home to School Transport

Further consultation will take place with the Local Authority Transport Services who provide transportation for pupils, to ensure that any changes to the school day can be accommodated in relation to the timing of pupils being collected and returned to home.

### Consultation period

The consultation will begin at 9am on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023, and end at 4pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023. We will then consider all the comments received and inform all stakeholders of the outcome before the end of November 2023, to facilitate any changes from September 2024. We are keen to hear the views of as many parents and carers as possible.

The online survey can be found [here](#) and asks two questions:

1. Do you support the proposal to make changes to the school day – Yes / No / I have no preference.
2. Any further comments you would like to make about the proposal.

If you do not have access to the online survey, please contact a school office for a paper copy.

Thank you for your consideration and participation, we look forward to achieving the best possible outcomes for our pupils and schools.

Best wishes

Chris Walker, Head Teacher, Culverhill School

Karl Hemmings, Head Teacher, New Siblands School

Carrie Osmond, Head Teacher Designate, Two Bridges Academy

Andrew Buckton, CEO, Enable Trust