



# Whickham Parochial Church of England Primary School

*Nurturing minds and hearts through God's love*

9/03/23

Dear parents

**Extension to the School Week from September 2023 (Reception to Year 6)**  
**Consultation Period: Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

In 2022, the Department for Education has announced an expectation that state-funded mainstream schools should deliver a school week of at least 32.5 hours (including breaks and lunchbreaks) by September 2023. The white paper [Opportunity for all: strong schools with great teachers for your child](#) sets out this expectation, and state-funded mainstream schools currently offering a school week of below 32.5 hours should work towards increasing their hours to provide at least 32.5 hours by September 2023 at the latest. While some recommendations from this paper have since been withdrawn, the requirement to meet 32.5 hours per week still stands.

Current arrangements at Parochial fall short of this expectation by 10 minutes per day (8:55am – 3:15pm), giving us a school day of 6 hours 20 minutes and a school week of 31 hours and 40 minutes.

Having discussed possible options to adjust the timings of the school day with staff and governors, the proposal we are putting forward is as follows:

- **School day to commence at 8.50am\* until 3.20pm, giving us a school day of 6 hours and 30 minutes and a school week of 32.5 hours (\*registration)**

We will continue to support a 'soft opening' each morning, adjusting this to commence at **8.40am** to continue to afford flexibility that we know parents value and reduce congestion at the gate. Gates will close at 8:55am.

These timings would be implemented from the start of the new school year in September 2023.

If you would like to comment on this proposal, please contact school via email:  
[whickhamparochialprimaryschool@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:whickhamparochialprimaryschool@gateshead.gov.uk)

Our consultation period runs until **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023**, after which confirmation of the changes will follow in readiness for September.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Walton