

25 June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers of children at Temple Mill,

Change of School Week Consultation Outcome

The Howard Academy Trust recently held a consultation regarding a permanent change to the school day organisation for all the primary academies in the Trust. The consultation focused on early closure on Friday afternoon and alterations to the rest of the week to ensure no loss of learning times.

The purpose of the change was to allow teachers to have their statutory PPA time on Friday afternoons thus allowing them to have the maximum amount of teaching time with their class. Please note, PPA time is not permitted to be taken outside of usual school hours. In the past PPA time was covered by Learning Support Assistants. This change also allows us to ensure more learning support time is available from the Learning Support Assistants rather than this time being diverted to class cover.

The consultation has now closed, and we would like to inform you of the outcome. We received responses from 28% of the families across the Trust primary academies. A small percentage of families opposed the proposed changes (11%). All parent responses, and those from staff and governors, have been presented to the Trust Board and the decision has been made to go ahead with the proposed changes.

There were two main concerns—raised through the comments from parents who opposed the proposals, and we would like to address those here. The first was around the charges for Friday Afternoon provision and the impact of this on working families. The Trust want to support our working families and so in response, the Trust have decided to withdraw the charge for staff-led provision. Friday afternoon provision will be free of charge to working families that need childcare for Friday afternoons. Charges will only apply if additional external providers are used for specific clubs, for example Dance Club. Free provision will still be available for those who do not wish to sign up for such clubs.

The second concern was loss of learning time for children. Each academy has now designed their timetable for the week to ensure that learning time matches closely to that which was in place prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and in line with requirements, as illustrated below:

| Pre-COVID School Day and Learning Hours | | | | New School Day and Learning Hours - September 2021 | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|--------------------|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Mon - Fri | | EYFS | KS1 | KS2 | Mon-Thurs | | EYFS | KS1 | KS2 | | | | | |
| Into class | | 8.45 | 8.45 | 8.45 | Gates Open/into class | | 8.40 | 8.35 | 8.30 | | | | | |
| Learning Time starts | | 9.00 | 9.00 | 9.00 | Learning Time starts | | 8.50 | 8.45 | 8.40 | | | | | |
| End of Day | | 3.15 | 3.20 | 3.20 | End of Day | | 3.15 | 3.20 | 3.25 | | | | | |
| Not included in Learning Time | Registration Times | 15 mins am 10mins pm | 15 mins am 10 mins pm | 15 mins am 10mins pm | Not included in Learning Time | Registration Times | 10 mins am 5 mins pm | 10 mins am 5 mins pm | 10 mins am 5 mins pm | | | | | |
| | Breaks | * | 15 mins am | 15 mins am | | Breaks | * | 15 mins am | 15 mins am | | | | | |
| | Lunch | 60 mins | 60 mins | 50 mins | | Lunch | 55 mins | 55 mins | 55 mins | | | | | |
| Learning Time per full day | | 5 hrs 5 mins | 4 hrs 55 mins | 5 hrs 5 minutes | Learning Time per full day | | 5 hrs 25 min (x4 = 21 hrs 40mins) | 5 hrs 20 mins (x4 = 21 hrs 20 mins) | 5 hr 30 mins (x4 = 22 hours) | | | | | |
| | | | | Friday | | EYFS | KS1 | KS2 | | | | | | |
| | | | | Gates Open | | 8.40 | 8.35 | 8.30 | | | | | | |
| | | | | Learning Time starts | | 8.50 | 8.45 | 8.40 | | | | | | |
| | | | | End of Day | | 1.05 | 1.10 | 1.10 | | | | | | |
| | | | | Not included in Learning Time | Registration Times | 10 mins am 5 mins pm | 10 mins am 5 mins pm | 10 mins am 5 mins pm | Not included in Learning Time | Registration Times | 10 mins am 5 mins pm | 10 mins am 5 mins pm | 10 mins am 5 mins pm | |
| | | | | | Breaks | - | 15 mins am | 15 mins am | | Breaks | - | 15 mins am | 15 mins am | |
| | | | | | Lunch | 55 mins | 55 mins | 55 mins | | Lunch | 55 mins | 55 mins | 55 mins | |
| | | | | Learning Time per Friday | | 3 hrs 15 mins | 3 hrs 10 mins | 3 hrs 15 mins | | | | | | |
| | | | | Learning time per week (5 x full day) | | 25 hrs 25 mins *No fixed break allocated as learning is play based | 24 hrs 35 mins | 25 hrs 25 mins | Learning Time per week (4 x full day + Friday) | | 24hrs 55 mins *No fixed break allocated as learning is play based | 24 hrs 30 mins | 25 hrs 15mins | |
| | | | | | | EYFS | KS1 | KS2 | | | EYFS | KS1 | KS2 | |

I hope this comparison provides assurance to parents/carers that the new school week format will not have a negative impact on curriculum time and its delivery.

Please note, the timings given above are on the basis that the school no longer requires the lengthier staggered starts and finishes introduced as a COVID measure. It is planned that the internal structure of the day will also return closely to as it was pre-COVID. Should such measures still be required or be reinstated, small adjustments will be made to accommodate these.

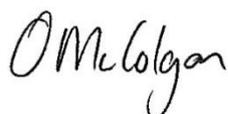
Friday Club provision at Temple Mill will be led and supervised by our team of Learning Support Assistants and is likely to be organised into Key Stage Groups depending on the numbers involved.

The activities offered will not be curriculum based but we aim to make them enjoyable and purposeful. The offer at Temple Mill will potentially include arts and crafts, sports and games, outdoor learning and cookery over the course of the year. We would like to give the children some input into the activities offered and to make full use of our staff's expertise.

If you are a working family and will need childcare for Friday afternoons, you will be invited to sign up for Friday Club on Arbor, this facility will become available shortly to allow us to plan for the beginning of the year. Once you have signed up, we will anticipate your child's attendance every week for the whole of the school year 2021-22. We'd ask you to please inform us if at any point you no longer require the provision. Each school may also extend an invitation to attend the provision to families that the school considers will benefit.

As we approach the end of the academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents/carers for the support you have given to our academies throughout the year. When schools returned in September we hoped for a "normal" year, unfortunately local and national lockdowns have caused some disruption to face to face learning. The children in our academies have demonstrated how resilient and responsive to change they are. It has been great to visit them at each THAT Academy this term and hear about the wonderful subjects they have been learning about.

Kind regards



Owen McColgan
Chief Executive