



St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School

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Interim Executive Headteacher: E. McDonagh-Smith

5th July 2021

RE: Consultation with parents/carers on Friday finish at 12.30pm

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you are aware, St Francis of Assisi, like every other school in the country, has been through an unprecedented time, probably one of the most difficult in recent history. This has forced schools to relook at how they deliver the highest quality education to children. Schools have met this challenge in a variety of ways, including through the development of the Remote Learning Model.

St Francis of Assisi, from the beginning of the pandemic and lockdowns, decided to use this time to rethink how we deliver education to meet the needs of our children and community we serve. This meant 'thinking outside the box' and doing things differently from how they had been done previously.

In light of this, the Governing Body would like to consult with parents/carers on the closure on Fridays at 12.30pm. **The school would continue to meet its statutory requirements regarding the number of hours it provides education for its pupils.** This is different to how some other schools organise their school week however, this is the way that St Francis of Assisi would like to move forward.

A similar model has been implemented at Holy Rosary and St Anne's Catholic Primary School, Chapeltown. We have noticed some real benefits in terms of impact on the quality of teaching and learning, because of the early closures on Fridays. Teachers have been able to work without any interruptions and have more time to plan and assess with their support staff. High quality Remote Education, which the children complete on Friday afternoons, consolidates and extends children's learning from that week along with the 'drip – drip' Home Learning they do on the basics, from Monday to Thursday. We are already seeing signs that our Recovery Curriculum is accelerating progress.

There is a statutory requirement for teachers to have protected Planning, Preparation and Assessment (PPA) time, which is 2.5 hours every week for full time teachers. In the past, our support assistants have covered the classes, when the class teachers have been released for PPA. We want to ensure that our children receive quality first teaching from their class teacher for the whole week. Moving PPA to Friday afternoons for all full time teachers would ensure quality first teaching throughout the week.

We realise in taking the decision to close early on Friday afternoons, may create challenges for some families around childcare. Governors would like to invite feedback and thoughts from parents about closing the school on Friday afternoons at 12.30pm from September 2021.

Parents/carers can share feedback and thoughts in the following ways:

- Email: admin@bsf-primary.co.uk
- Letter by post or handed in at the office
- Telephone: 0113 270 0978

Unfortunately, we cannot offer face-to-face meetings at this time.

The consultation will run for two weeks, 5th to 19th July. The governors will then meet to consider parent/carer responses and make a decision on whether to close at 12.30pm on Fridays. If any changes are required, these will come into effect from September 2021.

The landscape of education, as with many other sectors of society, has changed as a result of our experiences of COVID-19. It is important that we do not look back, but look forward to the future and embrace it with an open mind to ensure we continue to meet the needs of our children.

We thank you as always for your continued support, particularly during this difficult time.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully



E. McDonagh-Smith
Interim Executive Headteacher