



St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School

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Executive Headteacher

Mrs P J Dix B.Ed (Hons) M.A. N.P.Q.H. N.P.Q.E.L

Head of School

Mrs A Tong BA (Hons)

27th January 2023

Re: proposal to change the length of the school day

Dear parents and carers,

We are writing to inform you of a proposed change to the structure of the school day here at St Patrick's. This is:

- The official school day for the children in year R - 6 would end at 3.20 pm, 10 minutes earlier than the current finish time of 3.30 pm.

Should the change be approved, it will come into force from September 2023.

We believe that this change would be beneficial to the school community, and have a positive effect on your child's education. Local school finish times vary from 3.00 pm to 3.25 pm, with St Patrick's being the latest primary school to finish, at 3.30 pm.

The last twenty minutes of the current school day is often time when children struggle to concentrate effectively and learning expectations need to be adjusted accordingly. An earlier finish would alleviate this situation and enable teachers to focus on better quality afternoon learning. With a shorter afternoon session, teachers would also have more time available after school to assess children's work, prepare resources and attend training, which would benefit the children's overall learning experience.

There would be no change to the finish times for Panda's nursery class because of the flexible start and finish times required by conditions of the grant funding which the school receives for pre-school children.

We are liaising with Shamrocks and other after school club providers to ensure the proposed change would facilitate the continued smooth running of all activities after school.

We appreciate that this change may affect you in terms of childcare or working arrangements, and we would like to invite you to give your feedback by sending your response for the attention of Miss V Ryan, acting clerk to governors, using the form that will shortly follow to this parent mail by Friday 10th January.

We will let you know the outcome of the consultation, via parent mail by Friday 31st March.

Yours sincerely,

Mr G Owen
Chair of Governor's

Mrs P Dix
Executive Head of School