

## Parent Questionnaire March 2018

We are seeking parent views on the following...

Currently teacher PPA (Planning, preparation & assessment) time is organised by covering the class teacher with a mixture of teaching assistant support, different sports – swimming, tennis & coaches, music and Spanish or supply teachers. This is at an enormous cost to the school, is very difficult to organise and staff effectively as anything off site requires 2 or more staff members and also when the teacher is not in class and the children have to move around between sessions we have noticed that there is an increase in behaviour issues.

One idea we have had is for all teachers to have PPA time on Friday afternoon. Children would then be given the option of being picked up early or join optional enrichment clubs which would be run by the teaching assistants (there could still be things like music tutors etc. at school). We regularly have a number of parents who ask that their children are released for things like Forest school, appointments for dentists, doctors etc. this time could be used for this and therefore less core learning time would be missed.

**House of Commons Briefing Paper March 2016 states that:**

*In England, local authority maintained schools must open for at least 380 sessions (190 days) during a school year. The head teacher of a maintained school will recommend the length of a school day, including session times and breaks. The governing body must agree the recommendation.*

A teacher's contracted hours are 1265 hours per year (including the 5 INSET days)

Currently at Millfields the hours are 8.50-3.30 – 6hr40/day (including 1hr for lunch & 15m break) which is 10 long sessions per week (KS2 example: 8.50-12.30 & 1.30-3.30)

We propose that Friday's 2 sessions would be shorter followed by optional enrichment sessions

Please let us know your thoughts below:

That sounds like a great idea so long as there is sufficient capacity in the enrichment clubs?

We understand the difficulties with funding but in principle we are strongly against your proposal to cut the enrichment varied activities currently provided as listed above. Shorter school days on Friday would also be problematic to working parents.

I fully support having many diverse activities at school, such as Forest School. If doing this on Friday afternoons could be combined with operational benefits to the school, I fully support this proposal.

Sounds interesting I'm not at all against the proposal it's just a shame that the current funding difficulties mean that you have to look for alternatives, best of luck.

I would be happy to support a shorter week. 100% in favour in this plan, To have more time with my child.

We would be happy for the school to introduce this system.

I think this is a phenomenal idea beneficial to pupils as well as teachers. This flexibility is very forward thinking and the types of innovations we need to see more of written education/schools.

I think it is a good idea, maybe should be tried for a trial period first.

I am broadly understanding and supportive of this as long as the really important Spanish and Music options are still maintained within the standard week (so that all children have these all through school). It makes sense that this time is used for sports activities. However, if losing 2 hours off school day I personally would need to use school clubs regularly so there would need to be enough capacity and flexibility in this Friday afternoon provision?

I will support your decision.

This sounds like a very sensible solution and we would support it.

I suppose this would depend on what the optional enrichment clubs were. I think we would have to make use of them as picking my son up early wouldn't be a practical option for me due to work conflicts. If he was doing something truly enriching I would support that.

Sounds like a good idea, how much shorter would the day be? What kind of activities would be available?

I am in favour of teachers having PPA on Friday afternoons and the children doing enrichment activities at this time.

As we (parents) both work it won't be feasible to pick our daughter up earlier on Fridays. Would the alternative enrichment clubs be run at a cost to parents?

I think PPA time on Friday afternoons is a good idea to help with the funding cuts. I do feel that all the sports (Tennis, Swimming etc.) are a vital part of school and would be sad to see these cut.

Sounds like a good idea I would hope there are some Arts/dance/music/sport activity provided after school (Fridays).

I think this is a great idea and fully support the school in what must be very difficult decisions regarding costs.

I think the above is a good idea and would support it.

Whilst any changes will not affect us as our son is in Year 6. Had he been in a lower year we would not have objected to this proposal provided it did not diminish the overall wrap around care provision. We think this is a pragmatic and common sense approach to fulfilling commitments and stretching limited budgets.

I am slightly unclear as to exactly what the proposed (now) finish time on Friday would be. It is also unclear if this proposal was not adapted better there would be cost pressures which might have to be raised from other areas (e.g. redundancies) in which this might be the last work option? The idea would be status quo with good quality cover for the PPA but if this is no longer feasible then this seems an OK alternative.

I would support this and Friday afternoons would be the ideal time for this to take place.

8.50 punctuality as sometimes later, Friday shorter day 2pm like last day of term would seem logical. Wrap around care costs to be fairer i.e. 3.30 to 5pm per hour earlier and later sessions cheaper. For families who would not be able to pitch up at an earlier time. Supply of wrap around care until 4 or 5. How do teachers feel about this? Would Friday planning be as effective as a mid-week plan? Or would they start winding down earlier? What time would school close? How much would clubs cost? (How would this effect families on lower incomes) from a Dutch point of view most schools close Wednesday afternoon and some close earlier on Friday too.

My view would be based on the impact of the proposal change to all stakeholders. As a working parent, it would be very disruptive and potentially not possible to collect my child earlier than 3.30 on Fridays. Pay more for activities if he proposed change did not impact working parents, working arrangements, and then I would support this. However, if the proposed changes caused a negative impact on working parent s working arrangements that may cause hardship then I would not be able to support this change. I support the wellbeing of staff and options that do not detrimentally impact parents who are also working on demanding jobs.

We are starting a curriculum review and wondered whether there was anything specific you would like to see on the curriculum?

Please let us know below – please write specific year groups where applicable

More Music teaching throughout. Philosophy for kids.

Philosophy ethics and sexual education from Yr. 1 up. Music from year 1.

More outdoor learning, Meditation and Mindfulness.

More outdoor activities/Forest school style activities.

- 1) It would be amazing beneficial to promote recommended reading lists. I currently source lots from online, recommendations, other school websites. This would assist with spelling etc.
- 2) A more detailed overview of what kids will be leaving by term instead of the current 1 page that is shared with parents at the beginning of term. I think this is an area that really needs to be addressed.

I think you cover a huge amount already. My main concern would be not to lose much from curriculum

A better knowledge of Geography.

Architecture (All years), languages from early years.

Any finish time earlier than 2pm would be difficult for working parents but not opposed to idea in principle. Anything that saves money without impacting on teaching quality/education is a good idea.

Personal safety roads risks from older children using mobiles in public. Understanding their responsibilities and those of adults in their life/home/school. Importance of being an individual and learning to know/accept yourself.

I am very happy.

Computing & Coding, French language and Music (not singing) for year 1

Just the continuation of creative lessons, music, art, drama etc. Where possible.

Again this does not impact on our child but we would like to see more PE to encourage improved fitness in line with current recommendations for a quote of daily physical exercise.

More creative and outdoor learning where possible as a general comment. I feel that integrating a creative element to any part of the core subject's benefits children in terms of their enjoyment and eagerness to learn.

More Science for all years. Y4 exercises LED lights when setting alarm taught in other schools in lower years. Money Management. Emotional intelligence. Fake News use of internet  
Next to core curriculum Arts/Sports/music/Biology/Nature. I do think foreign languages are important from discussion with the children I am not sure how much progress/impact Spanish is making.

I welcome the attention to staff and student wellbeing and think any further curriculum time spent on the development in key areas of self-care, emotional understanding and expression, compassion and kindness and the kind of area that explores individual character and group belonging are important.

We are very conscious of supporting both pupil and staff wellbeing at Millfields. Do you think there is anything else we can do to support the wellbeing of children?

Please write your ideas below

No we think you are doing a great job, thanks.

Yoga as above and healthy eating.

Child led discussion groups to talk about issues.

Individual and group activities which promote SELF CONFIDENCE.

Encourage children to recognise issues that are concerning from these that are day to day events.

Also enable them to learn to manage these emotions in a calm and measured way.

I am very happy with support.

Maybe daily mindfulness/Meditation/Yoga? Could the teachers lead with a few minutes each morning?

We have felt that as a school you generally get the balance right.

Perhaps stronger emphasis on teaching or helping children to better understand dynamics of friendship, the notion of best friends can be exclusionary and I sometimes feel more work could be done on encouraging children to understand the complexities of friendship. (I.e. there are some schools that make a point of discouraging the notion of best friends). Very happy parent through and thanks for all your hard work.

I have been really pleased to hear that Nottingham class have a daily routine of running around the playground for 5 minutes every morning. I think this is a brilliant idea! They also meditate afterwards. I would like to see more of this and generally more outdoor learning.

Playtime Chris is doing a great job, more help for him to support tricky playtime dynamics. Teachers to spend a bit of time understanding and support learning about social emotional things that happen in the playground.

Wellbeing is a huge field so I'm sure there are lots of resources and guidance