



# Notre Dame Catholic College

Established 1869

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Our Ref: KT/Admin/162

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024

## Proposed changes to the timings of our school day:

Dear Parent and Carers

The Governing Body of Notre Dame Catholic College are consulting all parents and carers about the proposed changes to the school day and to seek your input.

The proposed changes primarily cater for a longer, single lunchtime and an extension to the school day on Friday.

### Background:

The time pupils spend in school varies across the country. Over time this difference accumulates, increasing the disparity between pupils by the time they leave secondary school. To ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to achieve their full academic potential, the Government, in March 2022 introduced a non-statutory expectation of a 32.5-hour minimum core school to be implemented by September 2024.

At Notre Dame we currently have a 30-hour 10 minutes school week and have had a tradition of finishing early on Fridays. We moved to a 30-minute form-time a couple of years ago to incorporate reading as research recognises that regular reading has so many benefits, for this reason, we have built this into the new proposal.

As a school we have shorter, split lunch breaks and a reduced day on Friday. This compressed schedule has resulted in several drawbacks. The split lunch can cause problems for lessons taking place during either of the lunchtimes due to the open-plan nature of the building. The shorter Friday afternoons suffer from a sub-optimal start. In addition, the school's weekly timetable falls short of the expected 32.5 hours with Department for Education (DfE) advising to "work towards meeting this expectation by September 2024".

Should the changes be approved, the new daily schedule below would be implemented on return to school in September at the start of the Autumn term.

## Model A

Students to arrive on site by 8:40am ready for morning registration and form time		
8.45am - 9.15am	Registration and Form Time	30 minutes
9.15am - 10.15am	Lesson 1	60 minutes
10.15am - 11.15am	Lesson 2	60 minutes
11.15am - 11.30am	Break Time	15 minutes
11.30am - 12.30pm	Lesson 3	60 minutes
12.30pm - 1.30pm	Lesson 4	60 minutes
1.30pm - 2.15pm	Lunch Time	45 minutes
2.15pm - 3.15pm	Lesson 5	60 minutes

## Model B

Students to arrive on site by 8:40am ready for morning registration and form time		
8.45am - 9.15am	Registration and Form Time	30 minutes
9.15am - 10.15am	Lesson 1	60 minutes
10.15am - 11.15am	Lesson 2	60 minutes
11.15am - 11.30am	Break Time	15 minutes
11.30am - 12.30pm	Lesson 3	60 minutes
12.30pm - 1.15pm	Lunch Time	45 minutes
1.15pm - 2.15pm	Lesson 4	60 minutes
2.15pm - 3.15pm	Lesson 5	60 minutes

### Benefits:

Standardising the school week will not only ensure compliance with government requirements but also enhance the educational experience for our students.

Retaining the extended Form Time will support the continued focus on enriching literacy skills and foster stronger relationships between students and their tutors.

Additionally, maintaining consistency in the daily structure will offer more time for leisurely lunch breaks, especially on Friday, benefiting both students and staff.

### Consultation Process

We value the opinions of our school community and invite you to participate in this consultation. You can provide your feedback by completing the [online form here](#).

The consultation is open until 5pm on 22nd May 2024. The Governing Body will review all responses. If agreed upon, we will communicate this to all staff, students, and parents/carers before the summer holidays commence.

Copy the link below into your browser or scan the QR code:

<https://forms.office.com/e/FvZX3pT4Mh>



Upon approval, the changes will be implemented for the start of the Autumn Term, starting on return to school in September.

We would like to thank you in advance for your engagement in this process. Your feedback is essential to us as we strive to make decisions that best serve our students and the wider school community.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to be 'AM Hutton', written in a cursive style.

Mrs AM Hutton  
Chair of Governors