

# St John Plessington Catholic College

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21 November 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you to consult about a proposal to slightly alter the timings of the school day for the Academic Year 2020-21. Governors have consented to a consultation with all stakeholders.

The proposal is that we reduce the lunch time for students and staff from 50 minutes to 40 minutes. The 10 minutes 'gained' would then simply mean school finishes 10 minutes earlier at 3.10pm rather than 3.20pm. The beginning of the school day would remain the same.

I am of the view and have been for some time that the lunch period of 50 minutes is slightly long especially for our younger pupils. The school is busy and the pupils have to be out on the yard during their lunchtime after they have been in the Dining Room. Because of the split lunchtime, we are able to get pupils in and out of the Dining Room comfortably in a 40 minute window. However, the current 20 minute overlap, where the school is on lunchtime together, leads to a very busy yard. Inclement weather, particularly at this time of the year, adds to those difficulties. A shorter period of time will mean pupils not sitting out for longer than necessary in the cold and will allow us to begin the afternoon session earlier, with an earlier finish. Lunchtime extra-curricular activities would not be affected and an earlier finish would also mean that pupils are less likely to be travelling home in the dark during the winter months.

Pupils are being consulted through the College Council and Year Council Reps and they have been overwhelmingly positive about the proposed change. Staff too are overwhelmingly positive about the move and believe it to be in the best interests of the pupils. I have been in touch with Merseytravel and do not anticipate there being an issue over the timings of the extra bus provision we receive given it is a minor adjustment.

I hope you will support the proposal, but please feel free to share any concerns you have.  
The consultation period will end on 5th December 2019.

Yours sincerely

**Simon Rylance**  
**Head Teacher**

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Reply slip – please return to your SJP Form Tutor

Please tick ☐ as applicable

I support the above proposal to alter the timings of the SJP school day ☐

I do not support the above proposal to alter the timings of the SJP school day. ☐

Comments:.....

Signed (Parent/Carer) .....

Pupil Name/Form..... Form .....

**Head Teacher:** Mr S J Rylance BEd (Hons) NPQH **Deputy Head Teacher:** Ms M Sharratt BA (Hons) NPQH

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