

St. Gregory's Catholic High School

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Telephone: 01925 574888



Headteacher
Mr E McGlinchey BSc (Hons) NPQH & NPQEL

Our ref: EMcG/PF/05/24

10th May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Changes to school day timings for 2024-25 onwards

I hope you are all very well and had an enjoyable bank holiday weekend recently.

I write to you to inform you about some changes to the timings of the school day which will come into effect on Wednesday 4th September 2024. I wanted to be able to provide as much notice as possible to you.

In July 2023, the Department for Education (DfE) published updated non-statutory guidance about the length of school day that schools across the country should be offering. The guidance stated that all schools should have a minimum **32.5 hour** week in place by September 2024. There is a link below to the DfE's guidance.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64a2f21fbb13dc000cb2e5e1/Minimum_School_Week_Non-Statutory_Guidance.pdf

The DfE guidance says:

"In March 2022, the Government introduced a non-statutory expectation of a 32.5 hour minimum core school week by September 2023. In July 2023 the deadline to meet this expectation was deferred to September 2024 at the latest, in recognition of the pressures facing schools. This applies to all mainstream, state-funded schools in England."

Furthermore, in the Ofsted Inspection handbook, it says:

"234. The DfE has set out a [minimum expectation of at least 32.5 hours for the length of the school week in \(non-statutory\) guidance](#) in mainstream state-funded schools by 1 September 2024 at the latest. Where it is clear that increasing the overall time pupils spend in school (to at least 32.5 hours per week) would improve the quality of education, inspectors will reflect this in their evaluation of the school, and in the inspection report. If a school is not meeting the minimum expectation, and this impacts on the quality of education, inspectors will expect schools to set out a clear rationale for this and understand what impact it has on the quality of education. They will also want to understand what plans are in place to meet the minimum expectation."

'One family... inspired to learn.'

Fax: 01925 243 816
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As it stands, St Gregory's falls short of this guidance by **10 minutes** per day because our current school day is from 8.40am until 3pm.

St Gregory's will increase our school day by 10 minutes, to ensure we meet the guidance set by the DfE and Ofsted, by the deadline of September 2024.

We see the additional 10 minutes per day as a positive opportunity for pupils to attain increased learning time and opportunities.

St Gregory's will add the additional 10 minutes to the **start** of the day, meaning school will start a little earlier than it does now, at 8.30am. The school day will finish as normal at 3pm.

Pupils will be able to enter the school site at **8.10am** every day and stay until 4pm if they use the LRC or are involved in the array of extra-curricular clubs that are on offer after school.

The new school day timings are attached in a separate document that accompanies this letter.

As always, the school welcomes comments about this slight change to the school day and should you wish to raise any comments, please do by emailing schoolenquiry@stgregoryshigh.com ensuring you add the title of 'school day timings' to your email.

I thank you for taking the time to read this information in this letter and to make any plans for your child to arrive at school no later than 8.30am as of the new academic year. The school will liaise with all bus companies to ensure that they are aware of the new arrival to school times in the mornings.

I will continue to keep you informed if and when there are any further updates about the school day timings for 2024-25.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E. McGlinchey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr E McGlinchey
Headteacher