

Changes to the School Day Consultation

Summer Term 2026

Objective

1. To bring the pupil contact hours on a B week in line with the government's expectation of a minimum of 32.5h per week.

Proposal

1. PM Form Time is removed (10 minutes).
2. AM registration will be extended by 10 minutes 8.40am-9.10am
3. Tuesday B week early finish (2:10pm) for pupils will be removed; pupils will finish school on this day in the timetable at 3.10pm the same as every other day in the week.
4. Tuesday A week and B week will revert to 1h lessons in line with every other day of the week.

Reasoning

1. **PM Form Time is removed.**
2. **AM registration will be extended by 10 minutes 8.40am-9.10am**

- Staff and pupils have expressed informally that there is not enough time to deliver the AM Form Time Activities including elements of prayer and liturgy and our reading and PHSE curriculum components since the introduction of the Yondr Pouches. Moving the PM Form Time and adding it to the AM Form Time will solve these issues, while retaining the benefits of our pupils not having access to their phones during the day and retain the positive morning meet and great that has been created by Pastoral and SLT staff at the AM Yondr stations.

Reasoning

3. **Tuesday B week early finish (2:10pm) for pupils will be removed; pupils will finish school on this day in the timetable at 3.10pm the same as every other day in the week.**
4. **Tuesday A week and B week will revert to 1h lessons in line with every other day of the week.**

32.5h School Week Expectation

Proposed timings of the school day for pupils every day in an A and B week

Period	Timings
Registration	8:40am-9:10am
Period 1	9:10am-10:10am
Period 2	10:10am-11:10am
Break	11:10am- 11:30am
Period 3	11:30am-12.30pm
Period 4	12:30pm-1:30pm
Lunch	1:30pm-2:10pm
Period 5	2:10pm-3:10pm

The specific guidance regarding the length of the school week is contained within the DfE Non-statutory Guidance (which Ofsted uses as a reference during inspections) and the Ofsted School Inspection Handbook.

The requirement for a 32.5 hour minimum week was first introduced in the 2022 White Paper and was formally integrated into inspection expectations.

Document Details

- **Document Title:** *Length of the School Week: Non-statutory guidance for local authorities, maintained schools, academies and free schools*
- **Date of Publication:** July 2023 (Updated from the March 2022 Information Note)
- **Page Number:** Page 4 (Section 1: Minimum Length of School Week)

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

The reference

The Government is determined that all pupils have the opportunity to achieve their full academic potential. To support this, on 28 March 2022 the Government announced, through the White Paper Opportunity for all: strong schools with great teachers for your child, a new minimum expectation on the length of the school week of 32.5 hours for all mainstream, state-funded schools.

The 32.5 hour minimum expectation includes the time in each day from the official start of the school day (i.e. morning registration) to the official end of the compulsory school day (i.e. official home time). The 32.5 hour minimum includes lunch times and other breaks as well as teaching time and any enrichment activities that all pupils are expected to attend. It does not include optional before or after school provision. All schools should deliver a substantive high-quality morning and afternoon session in every school day. Some schools may wish to finish earlier on specific days, for example to allow pupils to attend religious observances. In those circumstances, these schools should offer longer hours on the remaining days so that they meet the minimum expectation over the course of the week.

Document Details

- **Document Title:** State-funded school inspection toolkit
- **Date of Publication:** Updated 5 November 2025
- **Page Number:** Page 74

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/690b26c69456634d9795fde0/Schools_inspection_toolkit.pdf

The Reference

The document lists this requirement as a factor inspectors consider when gathering evidence about strategic leadership. It states that inspectors evaluate the extent to which leaders: *"ensure that the school week meets the DfE's minimum expectation of 32.5 hours per week, where applicable"*.

Context in the Toolkit

- **Leadership Responsibility:** This is explicitly framed as a leadership and governance duty rather than a curriculum design factor.
- **Statutory Compliance:** It is included alongside other leadership duties, such as upholding high educational standards and acting within professional standards.
- **Wider Evidence:** In other sections, such as Curriculum and Teaching, the toolkit emphasizes that "time is available within the curriculum for revisiting content and dealing with gaps in knowledge", but the specific 32.5-hour figure is only cited on page 74.

Cardinal Newman is currently meeting this expectation in an A week but not in a B week. Hence the proposed change to a B week.

Next Steps

Consultation Document Shared with Staff	Monday 27 th April 2026
Consultation Document Shared with all unions	Tuesday 28 th April 2026
Consultation Document Shared with Parents	Friday 1 st May 2026
Governor Summer Term School Improvement Committee Meeting	Wednesday 29 th April 2026
Closing date for consultation	Monday 15 th June 2026(9:00am)
Final Curriculum Model and Timings for the School Day ratified by School Governors at final Full Governing Body Meeting 2026.	Wednesday 17 th June 2026
Proposed implementation date	September 2026

Comments and Questions are gratefully received using the link to the MS Form below.

Consultation closing date is 15th June 2026 at 9:00am

[Changes to the School Day Consultation Summer Term 2026 \(Parents/Carers\) – Fill in form](#)