



Comber Grove Primary School

'Small School. Big Heart!'

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Headteacher: Mr Lorrain Black

Deputy Headteacher: Ms Joanne Fielding

Friday, 16th June 2023

Dear Comber Grove families,

RE: Minimum expectation on length of the school week (32.5 hours per week)

I am writing to inform you of proposed changes to the school day here at Comber Grove Primary School from September 2023.

The government announced that schools in England will have to offer a minimum school week of **32.5 hours** as part of a package of reforms aimed at raising standards. They stipulated that the 32.5 hours a week needs to be in place by September 2023. Most schools already deliver a 32.5-hour school week, but Comber Grove Primary is currently 15 minutes per day short of the government's current ambition.

The school leaders have looked at various options to ensure that we comply to the government 32.5 hours a week initiative but that we not cause too much disruption to our families. We did consider an earlier start to the day but we are aware that the majority of our parents would find an earlier start challenging.

Our proposal is to keep our current start time at 9am with gates opening at 8:50am and to end the school day for all pupils from Years 1 – 6 at 3:30pm.

Children in Nursery and Reception classes will continue to end at 3:00pm as they have not been affected by the government's change to school hours.

Our support staff are already employed to work till 3:30pm so this will not affect their working hours or support for our pupils with Special Educational Needs. Hopefully the proposed change will also support parents with timely pick-up in the afternoons.

I appreciate the proposed changes may affect you, in terms of childcare and or working arrangements. For this reason, I would like to invite you to give your feedback by sending your responses to the school office email: office@combergrove.southwark.sch.uk

The consultation will open: **Monday, 19th June 2023** and close: **Midday Friday 30th June 2023**.

We will review the feedback and do our very best to address any issues that may arise. We will write to you again after the 30th June 2023 to share any responses and actions with you.

Once the changes have been approved by the Governing Body, they will come into force from September 2023. We will make sure we all work together so that there is minimal disruption.

These changes will be beneficial to the school community, bringing us into line with the government White Paper proposal that all schools deliver a standard school week of 32.5 hours which is aimed at having a positive effect on your child's education.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Lorrain Black
(Headteacher)
16/06/2023