



ESPRIT Multi Academy Trust
Keelings Road, Northwood, Stoke on Trent, ST1 6QA
Telephone: 01782 236745 Fax: 01782 234639
Executive Principal: Mrs S Moran

“Every child deserves to be the best they can be”



Our ref. SM.GA
31st March, 2021

Dear Parents and carers

Thank you for your support during this second partial school closure. I apologise in advance for writing such a long letter.

I met with Trustees earlier this week and want to share information about the planned changes to the hours of the school day at our 3 academies.

You will be aware that during the pandemic we needed to amend our hours considerably to ensure the safety of our children, community and staff. This has created many challenges for some families and us, as academies. It has also created positives, in the way we have worked together to overcome these challenges and develop solutions; for example, the collection and dismissal arrangements at Grove and Hamilton feel much safer and calmer for our children. We are incredibly grateful for your overwhelming support during these challenging times.

We have received a lot of feedback from parents and carers throughout the autumn and spring term about the amended school day, the different start and finish times between the infant and junior academies as well as nursery times. We have taken all this feedback into account as we consider the next steps in our school roadmap journey.

After Easter we still have to abide by the strict Government requirements about social distancing, bubbles and staggered starts and finishes. However, we will be trialling some slightly revised times based on the feedback we have received from yourselves for the Summer term. The academies have worked very closely together to agree the new proposed hours and are aware that different sites present some challenges.

During the trial, if you experience particular challenges, please contact Hamilton Academy (hamilton@espritmat.org) immediately and explain the challenge. This will then be reviewed quickly to see if it can be overcome.

Trustees wish to reassure parents / carers that in agreeing the new school hours, we have ensured that all children will be receiving the legal amount of teaching time. Direct teaching time is calculated by taking out lunchtimes, playtime, registration and assemblies. In this trial, Northwood and Hamilton children will receive 23 hours and 25 minutes of teaching time compared to the 22 hours and 30 minutes they received before the pandemic. Grove children will be receiving 24 hours and 20 minutes of direct teaching time compared to the 22 hours and 55 minutes they received before the pandemic. Whilst there is no national expectation for academies, these hours appear to be at least in-line with other infant and junior schools nationally. There will be no remote learning set unless schools are closed again or bubbles close due to coronavirus.



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Starting on Monday 19th April 2021, the school hours will be:

Academy	Phase / year group	Start time	Finish Monday to Thursday	Finish time Friday
Infant (Northwood and Hamilton)	Nursery	8:40 am	2:40pm	2:40pm
	Reception	8:45 am	2:45pm	2:45pm
	Year 1	8:50 am	2:50pm	2:50pm
	Year 2	8:55 am	2:55pm	2:55pm
Junior (Grove)	Year 6	8:20 am	3:00 pm	12:30 pm
	Year 5	8:20 am	3:00 pm	12:30 pm
	Year 4	8:25 am	3:05 pm	12:35 pm
	Year 3	8:30 am	3:10 pm	12:40 pm

On-site Before and After School provision is still available, please see Hamilton Academy website for full details.

I reiterate that this is a genuine trial for children, families and staff and we will seek feedback from you via a survey in May before setting school hours for September. You are bound to have ideas that we haven't thought of so we would really encourage you to share any possible suggestions for improvements by emailing into your academy's office. After May half-term we will circulate a survey to collate feedback.

Many thanks for your continued support as we continue to work together to navigate our way out of this pandemic!

Yours faithfully

Mrs S Moran
Executive Principal