

GELLISWICK CHURCH IN WALES VC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Gelliswick Road, Hakin, Milford Haven, SA73 3RS
01646 692894; admin.gelliswick@pembrokeshire.gov.uk
Head teacher: Mrs L Prevel head.gelliswick@pembrokeshire.gov.uk
Website: <https://www.gelliswickschool.co.uk/>



30th April 2025

Dear Parent, Carer, Staff Member and other stakeholder,

Response to consultation on changes to school session times September 2025

The Governing Body of Gelliswick Church in Wales VC Primary School has consulted with pupils, parents, staff, the Local Authority and trade unions on a change to:

- the start and end times of the school day;
- changes to the length of the school day on Fridays.

The following information given is in respect of legal duties with regard to the Welsh Statutory Instruments 2009 No. 572 (W.54) and the Changing of School Session Times (Wales) Regulations 2000.

The governing body has met to discuss responses to the consultation which were received electronically, on paper and during a meeting offered to stakeholders. Following careful consideration of every response, the governing body has decided to implement the proposed changes from September 2025. From September 2025, school session times will be as follows:

	Monday – Thursday:	Friday:
Lower School (Full time Nursery-Year 2):	9.00 am – 3.25 pm	9.00 am – 1:00 pm
Upper School (Years 3-6):	9.00 am - 3.25pm	9.00 am – 1:00 pm
Morning Nursery:	9.00 am - 11.25am	9.00 am - 11.25am
Afternoon Nursery:	12.25 am - 3.25pm	

Changes made following consultation

In response to stakeholders that raised concerns about challenges the 10 minute later start will present, the school will trial an additional 'later entry' to free breakfast club. It is hoped that an extra entry point from 8.25-8.35 am daily, will support families, who will only need to arrive 5 minutes earlier than the current entry time to school. Current breakfast entry club times will also remain in place.

Please see below a summary of the responses received and comments from the governing body.

Cofion cynnes,

Leanne Prevel
Head teacher
On behalf of the Governing Body of Gelliswick CiW VC Primary School



Summary of responses to a consultation on proposals to change the length and timings of school session times

Responses received

- Comments from pupils across the school from R-Y6
- 15 electronic response forms from staff and parents/carers
- 2 paper forms
- 2 local authority responses
- 1 response from a local childcare provider
- 2 families attended the stakeholder meeting

Examples of comments and responses from the governing body

Some pupils noted that they are tired by a Friday afternoon and asked for all the teaching hours to be delivered Monday – Thursday, so that they could have a Friday off.

GB response: *We know that children are more tired on a Friday, however, legislation states that there must be ten school sessions in a week, which need to be delivered over 5 days.*

Some children were concerned about the impact on other clubs and were keen to suggest exciting learning sessions for the learning time after lunch on a Friday.

GB response: *Ballet Cymru sessions will continue as usual. Teachers will consult with learners on timetables.*

Some parents noted the challenge with collecting children from other local schools on a Friday.

GB response: *Learners can be booked into Friday afternoon provision and collected at any time before 3pm. The governing body had considered shortening the end of the school day Mon-Thurs, but had felt this would have created greater challenges for families daily.*

Some pupils asked about how their lunchtime would work on a Friday, and some noted that they preferred the takeaway lunch.

GB response: *The school will work with the catering department and stagger lunchtimes, as it currently does. The school is committed to lessening waste and impact on the environment. It is expected that this change will mean less rubbish in the local community and that all learners have a good, hot meal before the weekend.*

Some pupils and parents noted that the change would have an impact on parents starting work at 9am.

GB response: *Please see above changes to breakfast club, meaning only a 5-minute earlier arrival at school for these families.*

Very few parents noted concerns about the reduction in teaching time to accommodate the additional Friday lunchtime.

GB response: *The school has always provided purposeful learning on a Friday. The change to the session times and length of the school day is being made in response to updated guidance from Welsh Government, ensuring the school meets legislative requirements. Gelliswick School will continue to meet statutory requirements for Collective Worship and recommended teaching times.*

Many positive responses were received with pupils and families noting the benefits of additional family time and time with friends. Families commented on how the Friday afternoons support them to 'get away earlier' for a weekend break. They noted there are activities in the community run on a Friday afternoon which children and families already access.

GB response: *Gelliswick CiW School has operated an asymmetric week, where school day length differs across the week, since September 2019. By extending the length of Monday-Thursdays and finishing earlier on a Friday, the school has been able to utilise 'trapped' directed time for staff to*

enable additional time for professional learning/training. The Friday afternoon session has so far provided teachers with the opportunity to engage in over 220 hours of professional learning (over 35 full days of training time, which would have cost the school over £200,000). These sessions have included:

- *Engaging with the latest research into teaching and learning*
- *Sharing practice*
- *Evaluating and developing the school curriculum*
- *Work with universities*
- *Attending training sessions*
- *Work with colleagues across the Milford Haven Cluster of Schools to develop and align practice to support transition to secondary education.*

All of these activities have supported improvements in teaching and learning and the sessions are highly valued by staff as an investment in their development. The earlier finish time on a Friday has also enabled pupils, parents and staff to benefit from improved wellbeing through increased family time.

Many of the responses noted no impact or a beneficial impact of the change.