



IAN RAMSEY CE ACADEMY



Consultation on increasing the number breaks/lunch times services 2019-20

Audience:

- Directors and Academy Council members
- Employees
- Pupils
- Parents/carers
- Year 6 pupils with a place at Ian Ramsey CE Academy
- Parents/carers of Year 6 pupils with a place at Ian Ramsey CE Academy

Timeline:

Week beginning :

Monday 4 March – Share document with Directors and Staff

Monday 11 March – Consultation launched

Tuesday 23 April – Consultation closes

Monday 29 April – Result of consultation communicated to all stakeholders

Introduction:

For the last 4-5 years, we have collected pupil, parent/carer and staff views about a variety of things. The one issue that comes up repeatedly is the size of the dining room and the length of queues. We have tried a variety of strategies to increase the number of seats and ways to queue children going into lunch. We have not been able to adapt our current system or building to provide a positive experience at break and lunchtime. Over the last 6 months, we have been carrying out research into alternative lunch and break time arrangements. During this time, we have visited a number of schools/academies and spoken to colleagues at these schools about the reasons for change and the impact. The schools have had a number of different arrangements and are in a range of differing contexts. We wanted to ensure that we found a model which would give our pupils and staff the opportunity to have a quality experience at break and lunchtime. This will then improve the behaviour for learning during lessons. Feedback from school leaders, staff and pupils at other schools that have moved to split lunches has been overwhelmingly positive. In one case, a school had moved to a 2-way split lunch, but after 6 months are now preparing to develop this further and change to a 3-way lunch and a 2-way break times split for September 2019.

Rationale

Feedback we have received from pupils, parents/carers and staff highlights that lunchtimes are not an enjoyable experience. Overwhelmingly when the Headteacher asked pupils, “What could I do to improve the academy?” the answer is “Build a bigger dining area.”

We want all members of the school community to have an opportunity to sit down with their friends to eat, drink, chat and have access to the toilets. We have tried for 4 years, in our new buildings with over 1200 people, to avoid the introduction of a split lunch time. However, schools are being built with this in mind and, as a result, the dining and social areas are significantly smaller with seating for only 348 pupils and staff. For these reasons, as well as those listed below, we feel that this is the only sensible solution to this particular issue, as there are no extra funds for us to build additional dining or social spaces.

We have three proposals to consider. These are:

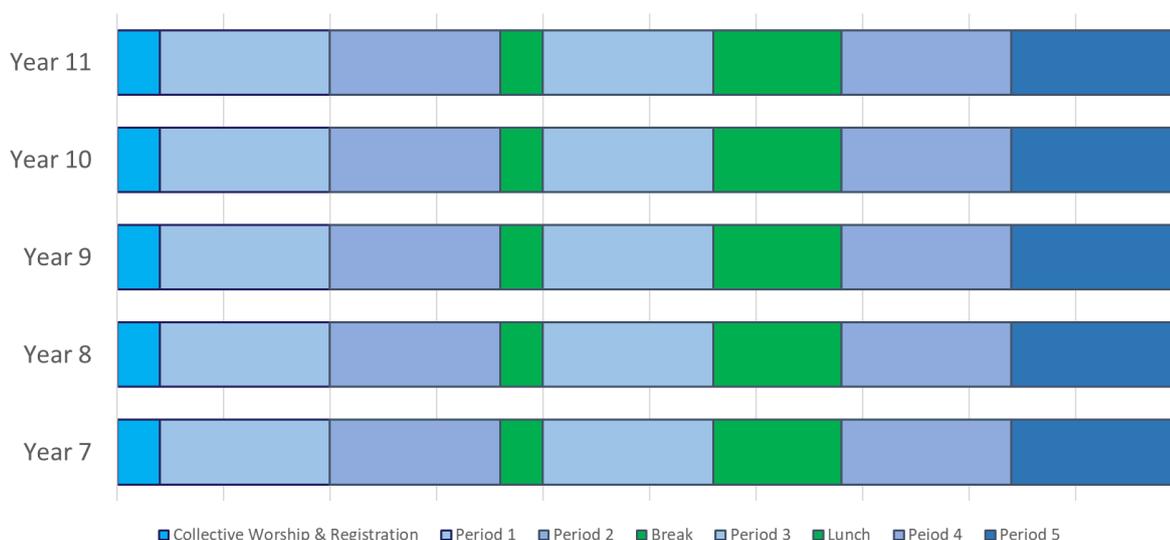
- A. To stay with the current lunch and break time arrangements.
- B. To move to 2 lunchtime sittings.
- C. To move to 3 lunchtime sittings.

I will outline the pros and cons, outlined by the schools involved, in the different models.

Proposals:

A. The academy day remains the same:

8.35am	Pupils must be in school
8.40am	Collective worship and registration
9.00am	Period 1
10.00am	Period 2
11.00am	Break time
11.15am	Period 3
12.15pm	Lunch time
1.00pm	Period 4
2.00pm	Period 5
3.00pm	End of school day all



Pros

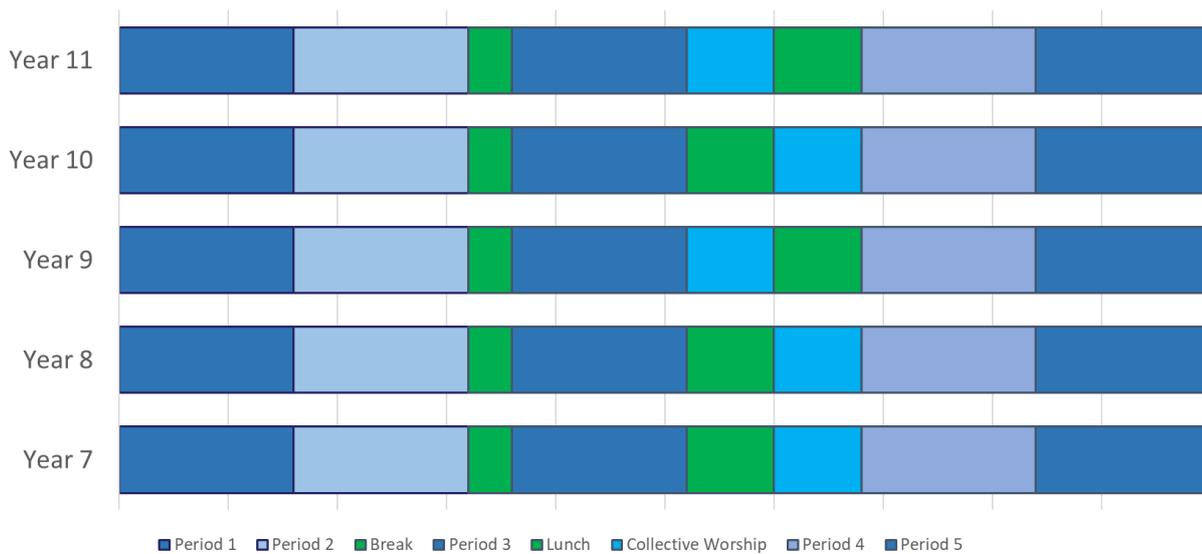
- Easier to timetable.
- Pupils can mix across all 5 year groups.
- Learning Resource Centre and clubs can continue at lunchtime.

Cons

- Queueing will continue to take a long time.
- Pupils are unable to sit and talk to their friends even after they have eaten.
- Large numbers of pupils in a very confined area, particularly between November to April, when the weather is poor.
- Time it takes to clean the building after lunch service.
- No food service at break time. (15 minutes is not enough time for over 1200 pupils to be served).
- Large numbers of staff are required to supervise the whole building during break and lunchtime to ensure pupils are safe.

B. The academy will have 1 break time and 2 lunch services.

8.40am	Period 1
9.40am	Period 2
10.40am	Break time
10.55am	Period 3
11.55am	Lunch (KS3) & Collective Worship (KS4)
12.25pm	Lunch time (KS4) Collective Worship (KS3)
12.55pm	Period 4
1.55pm	Period 5 all pupils
2.55pm	End of school day all pupils



Pros

- Only 2 lunch services required.
- Punctuality improved in the schools with this model
- Queues for KS3 will improve slightly, only 710 pupils having lunch at one time

Cons

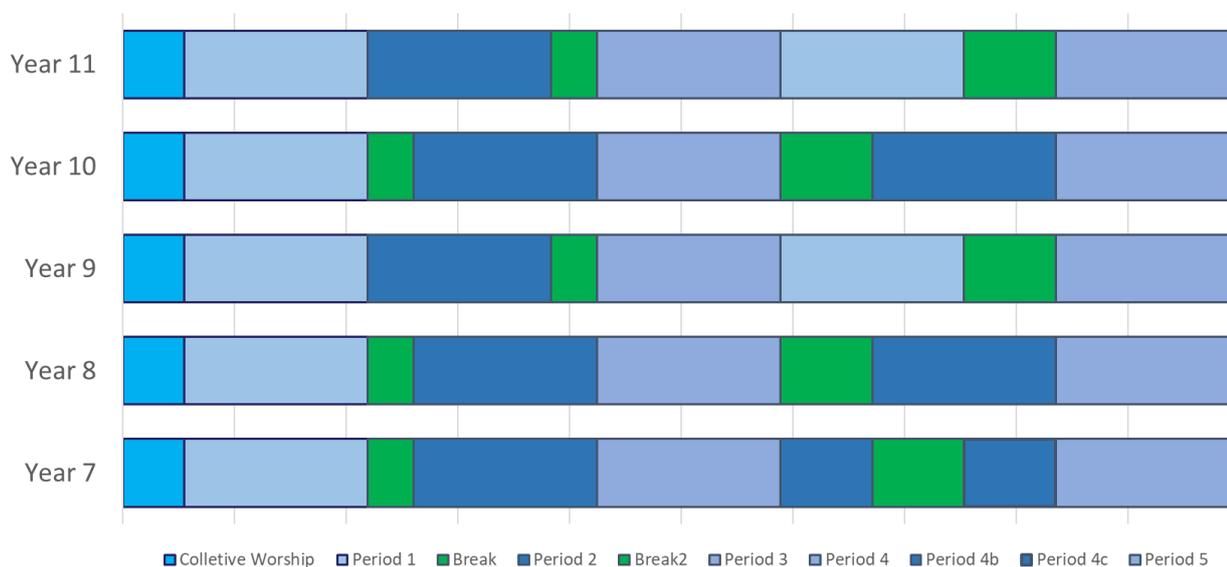
- Queueing will continue to take longer than by having 3 lunch services.
- Pupils are unable to sit and talk to their friends even after they have eaten.
- Large numbers of pupils in a very confined area, particularly between November to April, when the weather is poor.
- No food service at break time. (15 minutes is not enough time for over 1200 pupils to be served).
- Large numbers of staff are required to supervise the whole building during break time.
- Form tutors will not see their tutees until the middle of the day.
- Collective worship in the middle of the day loses the effect that it currently has at the beginning of the day. Currently this sets the tone for the day, giving pupils and staff the chance to reflect and prepare for the day ahead.
- The main hall and activity studio are adjacent to the dining area. This will affect the entry into whole year group worship and the acoustics will not be ideal for collective worship.

It is worth noting that the one school we visited that currently uses this model is now moving to the proposal below. (C. 2 break times and 3 lunch services).

C. The academy will have 2 separate break times and 3 lunch services.

The school day will be as follows (see attached diagram):

8.35am	All pupils must be in school
8.40am	Collective worship and registration
9.00am	Period 1 for all pupils
10.00am	Break time Y7, 8, 10 Period 2 Y9/11
10.15am	Period 2 Y7, 8, 10
11.00am	Break time Y9/11
11.15am	Period 3 all pupils
12.15pm	Lunch time Y8/10 Period 4 Y7, 9 & 11
12.45pm	Lunch time Y7 Period 4 Y8/10
1.15pm	Lunch time Y9/11 Period 4 Y7, 8 & 10
1.45pm	Period 5 all pupils
2.45pm	End of school day all pupils



Pros

- Pupils will have significantly reduced queuing time.
- Year 7 will have the entire dining area to themselves at lunchtime, providing a calm transition from primary schools into a large secondary school.
- There will be less than 480 pupils having lunch. KS3 and KS4 pupils have been split across 2 lunch times to average out the physical size of younger and older pupils.
- Staff will be able to join the pupils to eat their lunch in our dining area providing an increased community feeling to the academy.
- Quicker transitions from social time to learning time at the end of lunch.
- Zoned areas for eating and learning within the academy will reduce the time it takes to clean the building after a lunch or break time service.
- Split break times will allow a small food service at these times.
- An earlier finish to the day allows intervention sessions, extra-curricular clubs, and staff CPD sessions to start and finish earlier.
- An earlier finish to the school day helps children to return home before dark, in the winter.

- Department for Education strongly recommend that pupils remain in the building at lunchtime. This model will allow us to achieve this as all year groups will remain in school over lunch (currently, Y10 and Y11 are allowed to leave the premises) and as a result improve the safeguarding further.

Cons

- Clubs or intervention sessions will not be able to take place at lunchtime.
- There is a cost to zoning the academy with fob entry and exit to corridors.
- There will be a cost to an extended service period.
- Staff will not be able to have meetings at lunchtime
- Members of staff and pupils will have different break/lunch times to one another.
- It maybe be distracting in ground floor classrooms to have a large amount of pupils on the hard standing areas.
- It will be essential to limit outside space in the poor weather to the tennis courts.
- Mock exams and exams procedures will need to be adapted.
- Break duty for members of staff will need to be planned carefully.
- Older pupils will not be able to leave the site at lunchtime (30 minutes is not enough time).

If you would like to respond to this consultation, please do so by completing the response electronic questionnaire by following the hyperlink or by scanning the QR code below with a mobile device.

<http://bit.ly/IRLunchConsultation>

