

Avanti Schools Trust: SW Hub (Avanti Gardens, Avanti Park and Avanti Hall)

Outcome of the consultations in regards to proposed changes to:

- the timings of the school day from September 2020
- school term dates for the academic year 2020/21

Changes to the timings of the school day from September 2020

In May 2020 we formally consulted with school stakeholders in all three SW Hub schools (Avanti Gardens, Avanti Park and Avanti Hall) in regards to proposed alterations to the timings of the school day as per the tables below.

Proposed new timings from September 2020

Table 1: Avanti Gardens School

Time	Reception	Key stages 1 and 2
8.45-09.00	Registration/ Assembly	Registration/ Assembly
09.00-10.00	Learning session	Learning session
10.00-11.00		
11.00- 11.15	Break	Break
11.15-12.15	Learning session	Learning session
12.15-13.15	Lunch Until 13.30	Lunch
13.15-14.15pm	Learning session	Learning session
14.15-15.15pm	Home at 15.00	

Table 2: Avanti Park School

There will be five hours of learning time each day. Time	Reception	Key stages 1 and 2	Key Stage 3 and Year 11
8.45-9 a.m.	Registration/ Assembly	Registration/ Assembly	Registration/ Assembly
9-10 a.m.	Learning session	Learning session	Lesson 1
10-11 a.m.	Lesson 2		
11-11.15 a.m.	Break	Break	Break
11.15-12.15 p.m.	Learning session	Learning session	Lesson 3
12.15-1.15 p.m.	Lunch Until 1.30 (this is slightly longer for the Reception year group only)	Lunch	Lunch
1.15-2.15 p.m.	Learning session Home at 3pm (slightly earlier going home time for Reception)	Learning session	Lesson 4
2.15-3.15pm	Lesson 5		

Table 3: Avanti Hall School

Time	Reception	Key Stages 1 & 2	Key Stages 3 & 4
08.45 – 09.00	Registration / Assembly	Registration / Assembly	Registration / Assembly
09.00 – 10.00	Learning Session	Learning Session	Lesson 1
10.00 – 11.00			Lesson 2
11.00 – 11.15	Break	Break	Break
11.15 – 12.15	Learning Session	Learning Session	Lesson 3
12.15 – 13.15	Lunch Until 13.30	Lunch	Lunch
13.15 – 14.15	Learning Session	Learning Session	Lesson 4
14.15 – 15.15	Home at 15.00		Lesson 5

As part of the consultation, interested parties were invited to share their views on the proposal via an online form, no meetings could be held due to the period of lockdown instigated in relation to the COVID 19 pandemic. The consultation period ran between May 4 2020 and June 8 2020.

Feedback from the consultation period (May 4 2020 to June 8 2020)

- **Avanti Gardens School**

The consultation closed on June 8 2020. A total of 3 responses were received during the consultation (out of a staff cohort of 37 and a parent cohort of 505). Two (2) were opposed to the proposal and one (1) in favour.

Avanti Gardens School	Supportive of the proposed changes	Opposed to the proposed changes	Total
School Timings	2	1	3

- **Avanti Park School**

The consultation closed on June 8 2020. A total of 27 responses were received during the consultation (out of a staff cohort of 89 and a parent cohort of 581). 18 were opposed to the proposal and 9 in favour.

Avanti Park School	Supportive of the proposed changes	Opposed to the proposed changes	Total
School Timings	9	18	27

- **Avanti Hall School**

The consultation closed on June 8 2020. A total of 11 responses were received during the consultation (out of a staff cohort of 86 and a parent cohort of 704). Six (6) were opposed to the proposal and five (5) in favour.

Avanti Hall School	Supportive of the proposed changes	Opposed to the proposed changes	Total
School Timings	5	6	11

Some of the comments received **opposing** the proposals were as follows (all of the comments below are as submitted and have not been edited)

The days are far to long for 4-5 year olds. Also parents will hardly see their children! I'm deeply concerned about the new timings. Both our boys already find long school days challenging and are generally exhausted by the end of the week. One has sensory issues and finds the effort of school very depleting. The free afternoons are very much valued and in our opinion necessary. We are seriously considering our future at the school as a result of these proposals. (Avanti Park)

It means that I will have to leave work early. I enjoyed half day Friday. What about virus? This will change everything. (Avanti Park)

The content of a day in Kindergarten encompasses many elements which are enriching and nurturing for children. They are learning so much from the teacher through the rhythm of the day that the children need time to process this information. The shorter day for Kindergarten allows them to do this. If the little ones are going to be in to school for 6 hours a day Monday to Friday, they are not going to have the time for this important element of their learning and development. Please re-consider changing the hours for Kindergarten - Reception and Year One - to 9.00-13.00 with the option of staying longer if parents' needs require it i.e. working parents etc, and starting the new school year in September with a gentle start to allow new starters to get used to their new environment, i.e. just mornings for the Moon children and working up to longer days slowly (if the child and the parents want to). As for older children i.e. Year 2 and above, children have much more stamina and can perhaps cope with the longer days, however, the tradition is that everyone finishes at 1pm on Fridays. This is important downtime for all children and as explained above it is a chance for the children to process what they are learning. However if a child is struggling with the extended hours then there should be consideration given and they should be allowed to do 1 or 2 shorter days a week i.e. until 1pm, until further notice. (Avanti Park)

The welcome or 'assembly' time in the morning should be given more time to be successful as exemplified at 30 mins in the review. I would like to see reception go to lunch earlier than the rest of school so they have time to settle in. I feel it is unrealistic for reception children to do a 2 hour learning session in the afternoon and it needs to be shorter or separated into another activity. (Avanti Gardens)

Could the school consider flexi-schooling? 5 consecutive days for our 5 and 6 yo will be too much, as they are currently on a 4 day p/week till 2 pm. Ideally we would either bring them in for 3 days. If flexi-schooling isn't possible we would be keen for you to consider having a short day (till 12.30) on Wednesday. (Avanti Hall)

Some of the comments received **supporting** the proposal were as follows (all of the comments below are as submitted and have not been edited).

I'm happy with a 'full' school day but without any after-school care, a 3.15pm finish is 15 minutes earlier than the current end of the school day! I struggle to combine full-time work and childcare as it is! (Avanti Park)

Yes, on the basis that there is ALSO the provision of after-school clubs / care for working parents! (Avanti Park)

Much better! Shorter session between break and lunch, earlier lunch and finish time! (Avanti Hall)

I feel a later start of 8.45-9 rather than 8.30-9.00 will help enormously with attendance figures. I'm a bit confused as it mentions a slightly earlier end time but then it says 3 or 3.15. Our end time is currently 3 so it is not earlier. This is confusing. (Avanti Gardens)

Response to the feedback via the formal consultation

In light of the feedback from the consultation are any amendments or modifications proposed to the original timings as outlined in Tables 1 to 3 and if not why not? **No.**

The rationale for keeping to the original timings as outlined in Tables 1 to 3 is as follows:

- Pupil progress and attainment. We all have a responsibility to ensure that students are ready and prepared to learn in all lessons and that time is focussed on this objective.
- A streamlining of timings throughout different year groups to aid transition between key stages
- Learning time to be split into hour blocks to build a clear routine for the pupils. This will help them to feel safe and secure so they can learn and behave well.
- A continuation of tutor time at the start of the day so that tutors and teachers have time to deal with any issues that have arisen, during the previous day or overnight, without disrupting pupils' learning in lesson time. It will also allow for our more vulnerable pupils to meet with their teacher, tutor or other agencies supporting them, in order to prepare them for the school day ahead.
- The slightly earlier finish will allow time for enriching after school activities and clubs. Details of these will be confirmed in September.

Changes to the school term dates for the academic year 2020/21

In May 2020 we formally consulted with school stakeholders in regards to proposed changes to the school term dates for the academic years 2020/21.

The proposed new term dates outlined in the table below align with the majority of Avanti's other schools.

Proposed new school term dates from September 2020

Table 4: Proposed new calendar dates for all three schools (Avanti Gardens, Avanti Park and Avanti Hall)

	START	FINISH	LENGTH
Term 1	Tuesday 1 September 2020	Friday 23 October 2020	39 days
Autumn Break 2020	Monday 26 October 2020	Friday 30 October 2020	5 days
Term 2	Monday 2 November 2020	Wednesday 16 December 2020	33 days
Christmas Break 2020	Thursday 17 December 2020	Friday 1 January 2021	12 days
Term 3	Monday 4 January 2021	Friday 12 February 2021	30 days
Spring Break 2021	Monday 15 February 2021	Friday 19 February 2021	5 days
Term 4	Monday 22 February 2021	Thursday 1 April 2021	29 days
Easter Break 2021	Friday 2 April 2021	Friday 16 April 2021	11 days
Term 5	Monday 19 April 2021	Friday 28 May 2021	29 days
Late spring break 2021	Monday 31 May 2021	Friday 4 June 2021	5 days
Term 6	Monday 7 June 2021	Friday 23 July 2021	35 days
TOTAL			195 days

The proposed calendar is for 195 days in total. Pupils will attend for 190 days and the school will have 5 staff development days when pupils will not attend. For 2020/2021 these will be on:

Tuesday 1st September and Wednesday 2nd September 2020

Friday 16th October 2020

Monday 22nd February 2021

Friday July 2 2021

Feedback from the consultation period (May 4 2020 to June 8 2020)

- **Avanti Gardens School**

The consultation closed on June 8 2020. A total of 3 responses were received during the consultation (out of a staff cohort of 37 and a parent cohort of 505). All three (3) were in favour of the proposed changes.

Avanti Gardens School	Supportive of the proposed changes	Opposed to the proposed changes	Total
Term Dates	3	0	3

- **Avanti Park School**

The consultation closed on June 8 2020. A total of 24 responses were received during the consultation (out of a staff cohort of 89 and a parent cohort of 581). Nine (9) were opposed to the proposal and 15 in favour.

Avanti Park School	Supportive of the proposed changes	Opposed to the proposed changes	Total
Term Dates	15	9	24

- **Avanti Hall School**

The consultation closed on June 8 2020. A total of 10 responses were received during the consultation (out of a staff cohort of 86 and a parent cohort of 704). Five (5) were opposed to the proposal and five (5) in favour.

Avanti Park School	Supportive of the proposed changes	Opposed to the proposed changes	Total
Term Dates	5	5	10

Some of the comments received **opposing** the proposal were as follows (all of the comments below are as submitted and have not been edited)

The autumn term is too long and one week for half term is not a long enough break for my child. I wonder if you even read this qualitative data or whether you just collate the quantitative data. I wonder whether you even wish to retain the existing parents or whether your plan all along has been to push us out and get a new group of parents. Where do you foresee getting all these new families from and even being able to fund your school? (Avanti Hall)

The proposed changes don't include the long 2 week October half term the school are used to which is in the longest term with the most illness. The children and parents need this extra time to rest in the Autumn term. Also, the proposed changes mean the summer term finishes 2 weeks later. That makes the summer term quite long and the summer holidays even shorter. Steiner schools quite often have longer holidays than state schools and the difference in holiday dates makes a big difference if you are booking a trip somewhere. (Avanti Park)

The autumn term is too long and one week for half term is not a long enough break for my child. I wonder if you even read this qualitative data or whether you just collate the quantitative data. I wonder whether you even wish to retain the existing parents or whether your plan all along has been to push us out and get a new group of parents. Where do you foresee getting all these new families from and even being able to fund your school? (Avanti Park)

Some of the comments received **supporting** the proposal were as follows (all of the comments below are as submitted and have not been edited)

*Very happy to see a 2 week Christmas instead previously published 3 week.
Much more friendly to working parents (Avanti Hall)*

I am happy that you have done a longer holiday at Christmas. We will miss the two week Oct half term as this was always deeply appreciated and often a time when the children would get sick, or just replenish themselves. (Avanti Park)

Response to the feedback via the formal consultation

In light of the feedback from the consultation are any amendments or modifications proposed to the original calendar as outlined in Table 4 and if not why not? **No.**

The rationale for keeping to the original calendar dates as outlined in Table 4 is as follows:

- To bring all three schools in line with the other schools in Avanti Schools Trust and this will facilitate greater opportunities for staff development and training at both hub and trust level.

Recommendations to the SW Hub Board

1. Changes to the timings of the school day

Having reviewed the small number of responses, including the comments and considering the points outlined in the rationale for change above our conclusion is that the proposed changes will help each school be better placed to implement new curriculum structures which are broader, more balanced and richer. These changes will further support pupils' academic learning needs whilst providing additional opportunities to develop essential life skills.

Recommendation: The SW Hub Board agrees to implement the proposed changes to the timings of the school day for each of the three SW Hub schools as planned from September 2020.

2. Changes to the school term dates for the academic year 2020/21

Having reviewed the small number of responses, including the comments our conclusion is that the proposed changes will bring all three schools in line with the other schools in Avanti Schools Trust and this will facilitate greater opportunities for staff development and training at both hub and trust level.

Recommendation: The SW Hub Board agrees to implement the proposed changes (as amended following feedback from the consultation process) to the school term dates as planned from September 2020.

Mike Ion
AST Education Director
June 2020