



24 May 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

We write to inform you of progress being made towards improvements required at St Gabriel's, and to seek your views regarding changes we are proposing to make to the school day in September in order to further accelerate improvements.

With regard to **improvement planning**, we are pleased to be able to inform you that:

- further detailed evaluations of teaching and learning and of behaviour at St Gabriel's by our strategic partners have been carried out and shared with senior leaders
- these reviews have helped inform the first draft of our rapid improvement plan
- we have secured, for the foreseeable future, weekly support for the improvement of teaching and learning from our strategic improvement partners at Loreto Teaching School Alliance (TSA)
- the governors, supported by Bury LA and Salford Diocese, have successfully appointed a new headteacher, Ms Lisa Corrigan, who is able to take up the post from 1 September 2019. Ms Corrigan has a proven track record of leading school improvement
- Ms Corrigan's current employers have agreed to release her two days a week with immediate effect, enabling her to contribute significantly to ongoing improvement work and to enable a prompt and effective transition to the new academic year in September
- consistent application of school policy, along with increased adult supervision, is already leading to raised expectations of pupils and staff and to significant improvements in the behaviour climate around the school, all but eradicating the use of mobile phones and fizzy drinks to which inspectors referred
- The focus for school improvement is now moving immediately to improving the quality of teaching and learning as well as classroom behaviours

With regard to **changes we are proposing to make to the school day**, we aim to make more efficient use of time during the school day to respond effectively to the areas identified for improvement at the recent inspection. This practice is increasingly commonplace in other schools and is widely considered a key driver in school improvement. Without reducing substantially the learning time for our children, we can create the time for effective and personalised training for teachers, as well as meeting time to hold staff at every level to account. The proposal has been developed in accordance with Bury LA guidance with the full knowledge, and unanimous support of, school leaders, the Diocese of Salford Education Dept., strategic improvement partners (Loreto TSA) and the newly-appointed headteacher.

The start time of the school day, 8.45am, will not change. The exact timings of the school day can be shared subsequently. The two proposed key changes consist of:

1. A reduction to registration/form period time, without any reduction in subject learning time or social time, on **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday**, leading to a **3.05pm finish**, totalling a saving of 60 minutes per week to facilitate effective line management meetings to hold staff to account for the learning and progress of the pupils.

Cont.

Acting Headteacher  
Telephone  
Email  
Twitter  
Website  
Postal address

Mr A Loster BA(Hons) M.Ed  
0161 764 3186  
stgabriels@bury.gov.uk  
@stgabsbury  
[www.st-gabriels.org.uk](http://www.st-gabriels.org.uk)  
Bridge Road, Bury, BL9 0TZ



@stgabsbury



DIOCESE OF SALFORD



2. In addition to the changes above, each lesson on a **Wednesday** will be reduced by 10 minutes, alongside a 10-minute reduction to lunchtime, leading to a **2.05pm finish** for pupils. This will enable a two-hour session for teacher training and improvement planning every week.

The intended outcomes of these changes are to:

- improve effectiveness of leadership at all levels
- improve quality of teaching & learning
- remove low-level disruption to learning
- safeguard staff well-being through efficient/economic use of meeting time
- drive up standards of pupil achievement

The bus service operators have assured us that the changes can be accommodated.

For parents who prefer for their child to remain in school until 3.05pm on a Wednesday afternoon, supervision for suitable activities such as reading club and homework club will be arranged, though school buses will not be available at this time.

We welcome your views regarding these proposed changes. Please respond via email to the school email address by Wednesday 5 June. We commit to sending a response to every view expressed and sharing a summary of parent views once the decision has been confirmed by the governing body.

Thank you in anticipation for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

M McGhee  
Interim Headteacher

Kevin Coen  
Chair of Governors

