

ISSUES/COMMENTS RECEIVED WEEK ENDING 25-01-2014

ISSUES

Job security

Disruption for my children

Extra expense with childcare

I feel that the earlier start shouldn't cause any problems and may even be beneficial for working parents in giving them a chance to get to work for 9. However, many will have issues with childcare for Friday afternoon. I feel that 8.50am - 3.25pm is a very long day for the younger pupils-how about cutting 10 mins from the lunch break instead of finishing later? Most children have lunch in school anyway so 50 mins should be more than long enough. A late finish will impact on after school activities and a child's readiness to do homework.

If Primary children are used to having their lunch from 12:15pm to 1:15pm Monday to Friday, its a long hang off for them until 1:15pm on Friday for lunch. Or is lunchtime included on Friday? This is not made clear in the consultation.

At present, I cannot see any concerns if schools move to an asymmetric week

I work on a Friday and have 3 children that would require some form of child care. Our children have never had to go into childcare and this would mean that they would have to start. Child care for 3 children will be quite expensive!

My concern is the lengthn of the school day for those in lower primary school, as the full day is very tiring as it is for p1/2 pupils.

There is a severe lack of after school care across the Borders and many parents work part-time hours to accomodate current school finish times- this would not be possible on a short half day so this woudl incur most parents added childcare costs.

I am very worried that the overall teaching level will decrease significantly as a Friday morning becomes the 'Friday afternoon' and is taken up with golden time etc therefore having only 4 full days of teaching.

Childcare issues are likely to become very problematic as a vast number of parents will struggle to get Childcare arrangements for their children on a Friday afternoon.

I've heard contrasting information on whether the children will get lunch before the proposed end of the day on the Friday. If not, it must be against health advice for a child to go from breakfast to beyond 1.15pm without lunch.

No real issues.

Where do thousands of working parents obtain childcare for a Friday afternoon?

change of work times to accomodate early finish on Friday, School attended at present already starts at 8.45 am, would not want school transport to come any earlier in am.

My first concern is for the length of the proposed school day for the primary school children. Currently my son comes homes already feeling exhausted and we already struggle to get him to do his homework.

My second concern is for the teachers. They already have a high workload with both teaching and class preparation. If the additional teachers were not there to cover for them it would undoubtedly mean that the quality of teaching would reduce and the stress levels would increase.

My third concern is childcare provisions. In a time when there are a lot of working parents it would mean added pressure onto childcare provisions. I am aware of the childcare provider my son attends that they are currently outgrowing their space and would not be able to take on sufficient numbers to cover the school children who would require childcare.

1.The length of day for younger children, it is already quite tiring for some P1,2's and then they have homework to do, now it will be even longer.

2, we walk to school which takes 25 mins, it makes it a very long day by time get home at nearer 4pm.

3 big impact on after school activities, less time to fit things in, impact on reduced time with Borders sport and leisure for say swimming lessons, how are they going to accomodate the children who have 3.30pm lessons.

4. the children have not been considered in this at all, non of this is to help, assist children, purely for the council's benefit.

5. impact on child care, already very few childminders in our area, is after school club going to run from 1.15pm?

6. Just because it is done somewhere else is not a good enough reason to implement it here.

7. Feel secondary school pupils can cope with changes but not so for primary

8 have heard that schools in edinburgh reverted back to old times for primary children as they could not cope and it was too stressful for them?

Extra childcare costs and or need to reduce working hours / look for alternative employment

What research has been undertaken to assess the effect of an asymmetric week / longer school days on younger children's academic performance and behaviour in school / the home environment?

How have the benefits for school budgets been independently evaluated against the effect of an asymmetric week on children's education?

Weekday after school activity's are also an important element of children's education. How will proposals be co ordinated with out of school activity providers such as swimming lesson providers, local scout groups etc

The limited availability private after school clubs / childcare is already an issue for working parents, especially in those of us located in rural areas. What facility's will SBC be providing on a Friday afternoon to assist working parents, will every child be guaranteed Friday afternoon childcare, and at what cost?

Work commitments

Childcare on Friday afternoons

Only the concern of how long the days will become i.e mon-fri

School day being too long for younger children.

What impact would it have on after school activities and children that already have full calendar after school.

Constraints on parents already pressured time with their children.

Some parents have already organised their working day and their child care around the existing school day.

Impact on grand parents who assist with child care so parents can go out to work.

My children have after school activities every night of week and still have to fit in homework and any other project school sends home with them.

Children of primary age are already tired adding extra on to their school day is not ideal.

Working the hours I do - in a minimum wage job - will probably mean I will have to give my job up as I work till 2.30 on Fridays, doubt I can change my hours ar

Living in the country our children require to get school transport to school. At the moment they get picked up around 8.05 and dropped off around 4.00.

If the school day is lengthened then obviously they would get picked up & dropped off earlier and later. Already, having worked at school all day, by the time they get home they are not in the mood for homework, if they were later the problem would be even worse. The current day is long enough for children in early years and should not be made longer. Also, for working parents, it will be almost impossible for everyone in Jedburgh to get childcare for that afternoon due to the shortage of childcare providers in the town. And, as many families are struggling to cope financially at the moment they will be unable to afford childcare costs.

No issues. Happy with change.

We may need to organise child care for the Friday afternoon session.

We already have various afterschool activities which work well for travelling with finishing at 3.00pm - a later finish would complicate these activities and our daughter would miss out on the start of sessions.

Earlier start to mornings means earlier school buses and later endings means longer days for school bus travellers.

Childcare is my main issue if the school finishes at lunchtime on Friday

I'm concerned that my youngest children will not cope with the longer days. My middle child started P1 in August 2013 and despite having an April birthday still toils with a six hour day.

I'm concerned about the impact this will have on after school activities and my children being able to access and enjoy these. I'm keen my children take part in after school sport and some of these begin at 3.30pm. eg swimming lessons begin at 3.30pm - borders sport and leisure trust will have to rewrite their coaching timetables as will many other organisations. It's possible this will have an impact on their staff and services.

How will this new timetable fit in with school nursery? As yet we haven't been told how the new 600 hours is to be rolled out. Parents, like myself, with more than one child may find it difficult picking up and dropping off at different times.

I would have no childcare on a Friday afternoon and may have to give up work forcing me back into benefits of move to England (as I currently work in Berwick).

I have a child going into Primary 1 and I feel the day will be too long. One of the reasons of relocating from East Lothian to the Borders was that I disagreed with children not being at school on a Friday afternoon. I don't see one single advantage for Primary School children, just disadvantages and financial cost and inconvenience for parents.

No real issues or concerns.

The increased cost of childcare to accommodate Friday afternoons for working parents

I feel that the driver for this move is entirely financial and doubt that the schools will be able to offer more courses, thus being detrimental to learning.

At primary level slight concern about tiredness among younger pupils.

Although not an issue for me, may present childcare issues on Friday afternoons. Will the Council be provided support to out of school clubs?

As a full time public sector working mother of primary aged children the move to asymmetric week is probably going to force me into part time work, this is not something that I would willingly choose to do and certainly is not what I paid my way through a university education to achieve. This will therefore restrict my career options and further promote the very apparent gender inequality that exists in the Scottish Borders. My child care provider in Kelso has just implemented annual price increases over the next 3 years which has pushed my ability to pay for existing after school childcare to the limit and now I will be faced with further expense (or take the option of becoming a part time worker) to the point where the cost is becoming ridiculous and not realistic. It would be helpful if details of any help with child care costs for people who are not on benefits or very low income and any planned increase in affordable child care provision for working families could be published? Women across the Scottish Borders will be adversely affected by this decision with employers choosing to employ men or women without dependent children as opposed to being faced with the Friday afternoon child care issue. The lengthy school holidays do not help. I am worried that younger children will find it difficult to concentrate for the longer periods of learning.

I am a working mother. I work Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9.30am - 5.00pm for NHS Borders. I cannot afford childcare for Friday afternoons and cannot reduce my working week as I provide a public service. I may have to leave my job.

Work to suit school hours at the moment, school finishing early on one day would cause me childcare problems.

None

No issues

Arranging child care for Friday afternoons.
Childcare on the Friday afternoon

1. Length of school day - as my youngest child is currently in Primary 1, I feel that increasing the school day would be too tiring for the younger children as quite often they are tired now when they come out of school. This would impact on their ability to learn as the day went on and with homework it does not leave much time for relaxation and recreational activities which are also important in child development.
2. Difficulty in organising and the availability of suitable child care to suit for a longer time on a Friday afternoon. As it is, there is a lack of suitable provision and this will increase demand for places so it may not be possible to arrange alternative child care. Will after school clubs still operate on Fridays with the proposed changes?
3. The impact on other organisations - this will severely impact on other groups such as BSLT who run swimming lessons from 3.30pm on weekdays, Creative Stage who run classes at 3.30pm and so on. They may not be able to reschedule classes and not everyone can arrange these for Friday afternoon.
4. The impact on teachers themselves - not all teachers work on Fridays so how would this apply and it would mean teachers would be in school longer each day and I think overall this would lead to a deterioration in teaching standards.

As parents who work Mon-Fri although having the kids in longer Mon-Thurs will cut down the hours of childcare needed on those days it could potentially prove difficult to find longer childcare on a Friday. I am also concerned that the 4 longer days will be too much for my youngest child who is due to start primary 1 in August 2014.

Impact on child's education.

Can't see how the proposed changes will make huge savings (would like to see actual figures)

The increased cost of childcare for us as a family will have a huge negative financial impact, one that us working parents who don't get any financial assistance with care of children really can't afford!!

Change of daily routine may upset/affect the children.

Will nurseries follow the asymmetric week when childrens nursery hours are being increased.

Would it not be more efficient/cost saving to finish at lunchtime on a Friday rather than 1.15 confussing for home dinner children who would have to return to primary school for 5 minutes 1.00 - 1.15.

childcare

Both parents working, extra childcare will be required. It does not suit today's lifestyle it strikes me that we are going back in time making school days Longer and then giving a half day on a Friday when a lot of parents are still working.

My children currently face a 70 minute bus journey to school both there and back. This will mean my children are on the bus at 7.30am each morning and not home until 4.50pm. My biggest concern is transport. Also on Fridays if school finished at 1.15pm and my children dont get home until approx 2.30pm that is a long time between eating - if they have breakfast at 7am and dont get home for lunch until 2.30pm. I feel this is too long. Will this be though about ?

I don't mind this happening as long as the home work gets cut back . I have primary and secondary children and my primary age child gets more homework than my secondary child . More time in school and less family time at nights if homework is to continue .

My son, P4, struggles with reading and writing, probably dyslexic, and is very active. When he gets home he is mentally very tired. I think a longer school day will be very difficult for him. I am also concerned about childcare on the half day. We have sent our two children to the after school club in Jedburgh , as I work 3 days a week, but after several months my husband who is self employed withdrew them as he felt they were losing confidence. they were expected to sit quietly at tables and play, and were not allowed outside. This did not suit either of our children. I am concerned my husband will be left looking after them again, not able to work, as there are no acceptable alternatives for child care.

childcare. I am not sure what sbc plans to put in place for children whose parents currently work on a Friday as there are currently very limited options for working parents. surely this has the potential to have a huge impact on working parents in terms of moving the financial burden on to them as they have to either work 4 1/2 days or find ways to fund childcare for one afternoon a week.

would this Friday afternoon be instead of or additional to the staff training that takes place one evening per week within schools?

what are the plans for nurseries? are school nurseries to run their (newly extended) sessions on a Friday afternoon as well? how does this work with teaching contracted hours/nursery staff hours/pay and conditions etc?

would sbc continue to offer a full meals service on a Friday or would this be reduced to a lunch box option?

would all schools have to follow the same timings or would there be local flexibility to allow for transporting issues?

what are the implications for primary school curriculum support staff?

none as a borders based childcare nursery we could easily change our breakfast club and after school club sessions to accommodate these changes

Both my partner and myself work. My hours are 9am to 5pm. My partners hours are 9am to 3pm 5 days a week. If this goes ahead my partner will have to leave her job. Boss's have so far been understanding and allow for a 3pm finish as opposed to a 5pm like everyone else within the company. Family and friends are also working so cant help out.

Do SBC plan on paying for any additional child care costs?

How are parents working fulltime supposed to look after their children on a Friday afternoon if the school day finishes at 1.15pm....for me its just not possible to do this!!

I have no issues myself as I do not see it being detrimental to current education curriculum. However as chair of parent council other parents do have many issues to raise in relation to the ACTUAL proposed times of week as nothing available on this. School transport, school lunches & childcare- teacher cuts.

Expense and practical challenge of arranging suitable childcare for 2 children as working parents

Loss of lunchtime clubs and possible impact on school choir, ceilidh band, guitar group, engineering club and sporting clubs, resulting in loss of school culture and amenities.

Dilution of staff resources.

Pupils may not make the most of the half day created if the half-day falls on a Friday - just becomes a longer weekend.

More pressure on school catering resources and canteen throughput as more children try to have lunch in a shorter lunch break.

This change is driven purely on financial grounds (as all things seem to be at SBC) and takes no consideration of the learning needs of the children.

My child is already subject to the farce that is CFE (the lack of support material & teacher understanding of CFE is shocking) & during this critical period SBC want to add further risk to my child's education by implementing changes that are of absolutely no benefit to that education.

I cannot see how increasing the school day on a Monday to Thursday can do anything to increase the quality of teaching or the learning experience but only lead to potentially fatigued children.

I believe this would also result in teaching numbers - given the situation at Selkirk HS where any teacher non attendance seems to result in major cover issues - I can only see this type of situation being more prevalent.

Selkirk has just this school year moved to the 33 period week are you seriously proposing to make a further change for the next school year?

Lack of Registration teacher is a concern, I feel it is important that children have one teacher who is constant throughout. The early finish is a concern also as we live out of town and no-one would be home so our child would have to stay in town until we have finished work, this would mean her wandering the streets.

Childcare on the early closure afternoon.

Hours worked in school on early closure afternoon

Reduction in children's learning time

None, my children are in high school and more adaptable to changes.

childcare - for working parents an afternoon off is a big concern

school meals - what about free school meals? Are SBC obliged to serve 5 FSM a week. Do all children get a meal on the half day, if so when do they finish?

If only FSM are entitled how do you keep them anonymous?

Given that the region thinks it is important for schools to remain open in severe weather (moving staff around the region to comply) in order to keep the community working why is it a good idea then to give every child every Friday afternoon off!

The longer days will be too long for the very young children. Children on medication will have severe problems with timings with a possible knock on effect on the classroom behaviour.

This move does not just affect the schools it affects an entire community: childcare issues (already stretched to the limit); swimming pools - children's swimming lessons will encroach on general public swimming time; after school clubs and activities running later into evenings rather than late afternoons.

School staff meetings- if staff meetings are to take place on Friday afternoons how will this affect staff on part time contracts that work eg Monday to Thursday? Will they be forced to change their days or simply be expected to go to the meetings regardless.

Selkirk High school has already changed their working timetable to accommodate extra teaching time. My children are concerned that there will be yet another upheaval to their week along with the new exam system and C f E. How much change can these teenagers absorb without it being detrimental to their learning?

I am against it being a Friday as some children will just stay off on Fridays. If you are going to do it, it should be on a Wednesday.

As a working mum I would need to arrange childcare for Friday afternoons. Also my children travel to and from school on a service bus, what are the arrangements for such a situation?

The change in the school week will be a logistical nightmare for me. I have three children one at Earlston High, one at Edenside Kelso and a baby. I currently have to drop my son off 30 mins early to enable me to get my daughter to Edenside on time. If the school week changes my son will be left waiting to be collected at home time as well as being dropped off early making the school day even longer.

Rural schools are not able easily to run after schools clubs as many pupils rely upon school transport. The shorter lunch times do not allow for lunch time activities to be run. Berwickshire High has for a number of years operated a different timetable. We were advised that this would be extended across the region and ultimately allow sharing of work and teaching between schools. It never happened yet the timetable remained the same. The short lunchtime is not enough of a break.

If the move to the asymmetric week will assist with training, are the current number of in service days to be reduced? How on earth are working mothers supposed to accommodate their primary school children being at home each Friday? This will represent real problems for working mums who do not have the benefits of very flexible working arrangements. I see no benefits to the pupils of a move to a 4.5 day week. Quite the opposite in fact. I am not convinced that there will be benefits to their education. This is a move driven not by a desire to raise standards-there is certainly a need for this-but by the need for budget savings.

I would have no childcare for Friday afternoons

Key issues relate to childcare for the Friday afternoons. Whilst the council may save money, working parents will have to fork out more for childcare provision. Another key issue is the lack of available after school care and the cost of this. Families are finding finances tighter and tighter with changes made by the current government and this will be an added pressure. Some parents may be in a position where they can't afford to pay for child care and their children may be home unattended leading to an increased chance for risk.

I am against the move to an asymmetric week for primary schools as I do not believe it is in the interests of the children. The four long days would be too much for younger children, many of whom already get very tired in their first few years at school. It would also be very inconvenient for working parents, most of whom plan their working hours around their child's school day. Glenn Rodger stated the only monetary savings at primary school would be in aligning transport costs. I don't think the upheaval would be worth it. I would much rather see the free school meals for P1-3 scrapped or the increased nursery hours scrapped than force young children into the asymmetric week. Why not increase the Council Tax? We need to address this from the point of view of our children.

ensuring children at high school retain choice of 8 subjects including mandatory english and maths into s4 - not reducing

working parents - friday pm will be an issue

Children walking home in the dark.
Unsupervised time on a Friday afternoon.
Cost of childcare.
Availability of childcare.
Longer working day for children.

I am a full time working parent, childcare, two children in different schools

I'm concerned that a reduction in teacher numbers will mean less opportunity for sport and athletics. Priorsford Primary has a dedicated part time PE teacher and I fear his position may be lost. I'm also worried for music.

Dear Madam/Sir,

Re: Consultation on the impact of the proposal to move all schools to an asymmetric week

I am writing to you in regard to this consultation as I have a number of objections to the proposed changes. I am a parent of 4 children, aged between 3 and 12.

(1) I do feel that with an even longer school day especially the younger children will find it difficult to concentrate on lessons in the afternoons. Also, it is not clear (having done some quick calculations with the primary hours) whether breaks are being shortened or omitted to "pack in" more lesson time Mo-Fri. I would be very concerned about that. My children have recently moved from a school which had an additional break in the afternoon and struggle to adjust to not having one now.

(2) for working parents, especially those with a number of children, this change could have significant financial implications, especially those on low incomes who can ill afford childcare. Also, the childcare available on Friday afternoons will be so sought after by parents that inevitably some will struggle to find any at all. I also feel that this issue would have significant implications for parents who, after having brought up their children for years may be thinking of re-entering the jobs market and seeking gainful employment. It will further limit the choice of work they are able to do whilst still being

(3) I am not entirely sure what the benefits to the children would be. This aspect I feel is ill explained in the letter I received. If, when a teacher attends the occasional course, being taught by a supply teacher is so disruptive to the children's learning, why is this issue not addressed by looking at how the supply teachers can be better supported to ensure the learning/teaching is not disrupted? Sometimes having a different teacher can be refreshing for the children, especially at primary school where otherwise the children have the same teacher every day.

It looks rather like this is a money saving exercise with rather dubious benefits to the children, especially at primary school age. I urge you to re-consider these ideas.

I hope that this won't mean less sport, art, music and drama?

Not sure why you finish after lunch on Friday...seems odd not to finish before.

Will there be extra sports events/ activities offered on Friday afternoons?

Reduced opportunity for direct teaching. End of day in primary school more likely to be golden time. Lose an afternoon of block teaching.. Primary school children tired with longer day. High cost child care parents. Reduced lunch time for staff and children. Reduced opportunity for extra curricular activities at lunchtime. A large amount adolescents with an afternoon to fill. Why change something that works. Why are we spending money consulting on this again. There was clear message from the last consultation that the status quo was fine.

Also be big impact on after school clubs, extra curricular activities .

As my daughter travel by bus to Hawick High School from Newcastleton, it is giving her an even longer day and having to stay in Hawick until a bus can bring her home.
Alignment of primary and secondary school hours for collection of children from each facility.

Job security - I am a classroom assistant.

The biggest issue would be childcare as both myself and my husband work(I am a nursery nurse employed through SBC). It would mean more of our income \

Principally I beg the question of why we need Scot Borders Council - anymore.....I'm getting the impression the last one out should remember to turn out the light!

1) Seriously I have issue with the reduction in teachers and no matter how it is dressed up childrens education will suffer. Teachers paperwork grows and contact time reduces which Scot Borders seems happy as long as the forms are filled in by less teachers with more pupils who are not being educated.

2) Who is going to pay for additional childcare costs? With average earnings well below the national average in the region it is a cost people can ill afford. It will lead to a generation of latchkey kids and increase in anti social behaviour.

3) This is nothing to do with providing a better service it is solely about saving money and it is at the expense of the education and future of our children.

4) It means children will be walking home later on the other days and during the dark winter months this would be putting them at additional risk on the roads.

5) There is a cost to local businesses in the region where the ability to employ a flexible workforce is diminished how can we be competitive as long as they can

6) I object to the charade that is currently being played through...the consultation aspect is a pointless exercise. Principally without alternatives being considere

. Days will be too long. little time for home work. More tired.

. Feel you are trying to save money at expense of our education

We are having to stay in school for longer which means that we will be more tired and won't have as much concentration at school or when we're doing homework and we as students don't get a say in any of this when we're the ones that have to do it.

child care is costly and i know because i went to an after school club on wednesdays and this means my parents will have to do this twice a week and no one has that money in these times.

Another concern is that I that get a bus home and will have to wait lengthy amounts of times untill I am home to get lunch. This means we will have to supply packed lunches for ourselves for the journey but to bad if they are car sick.

Loss of registration period and the problems this will pose for sharing of information, meeting pupils, first level guidance etc.

Transport of pupils in rural schools. Some children do not arrive until just before 9am because of transport schedules. When school trips are organised these pupils have to be brought in by parents because the bus cannot get them into school any earlier. Going home, transport is scheduled to take primary pupils home first then to collect and transport senior pupils to outlying areas. If pupils finish at about the same time , especially on a Friday, primary pupils cannot get home before the buses are needed for senior pupils.

As a teacher who has worked an asymmetric week before, the time lost on a Friday afternoon cannot be properly made up by adding 15 or 20 minutes at the beginning or end of the day. I will lose 3 "lesson time" on a Friday. I cannot teach these lessons in bits of time at the start and end of the day. In my experience, Friday morning becomes finishing off time! particularly because absence tends to be higher and so teachers are reluctant To teach something new.

training on a Friday afternoon - fine of you live or teach near to place used for training I am no more keen to go to Gala on a Friday afternoon than for atwilight session after school as happens now. If pupils don't leave school until 1.15 courses won't be able to start until 2.30 to allow teachers from outlying schools to c - it takes an hour to Gala from my school! a great time to learn things at the end of a busy week!

I work on a Monday & Tuesday, so therefore not really convenient to travel to schools on Friday afternoons as this defeats the point of working part time.

No issues. I am a primary school teacher who worked the asymmetric week in Edinburgh for several years. Before it was introduced people had concerns but staff, parents and pupils adapted very quickly to the new arrangement.

As a staff member in a secondary school, I support the proposal - pupils do not learn on a Friday afternoon as a setting that provides wrap around care for children up to the age of 12 who has a high level of staffing with different start times and finishing times (staff hours will need to change, this will have an impact on their lives) (childcare etc) physically doing the drop off and from schools will require rethinking and restructure of the settings day. we will have limited spaces for the children who attend on a Friday to come in the afternoon when they should be at school. on a Friday we will have to cater for three different age groups 2-3 3-5 (funded sessions) and after schools

We run a day nursery which currently offers care to children aged 4 months up to 12 years, including After School and Holiday Care for school age children. The asymmetric week will impact on the day to day running times of the Nursery (although these are not insurmountable problems) and will result in requests from existing working parents who are our customers to offer After School care on Friday afternoons at a time when we are running Early Learning and Childcare for 3 and 4 year olds utilising the space which we normally use for After School Care(later in the day after 3.15pm)

I own a business that relies on children being at school

I run an Out of School Club in Eyemouth - the pupils attending our club will be arriving earlier? I will have to have extra staff to pickup and look after children

If children are still in nursery will they have siblings coming to the club?

As a working parent I would like to know what child care provision would be made for parents who are unable to take a half day on the Friday to collect and look after their children?

At Playgroup/nursery it contradicts with the proposed increase of 600 hrs due to be implemented in August.

The early finish on a Friday could cause childcare issues.

I do not believe the changes are fair on working parents because it means we will have the burden of extra childcare costs to cover a Friday afternoon period when childcare costs are high enough. I also think children attending school full days Monday to Friday stands them in good stead for the rest of their working lives.

COMMENTS

RESPONDENT

I am a member of school support staff employed in Scottish Borders

parent/carer - primary school

I already submitted a form a couple of weeks ago. However, the more I think about it, the more I like the idea of one half day (ideally a Friday). This would be a valuable opportunity to spend a weekday afternoon with my kids as they grow up, through primary and secondary, leaving us free to meet friends or just spend time at home. My main concern is four longer days - I'm not keen on a longer day; it's already tiring enough. Trying to fit in after school activities could be a squeeze, as well as tiring for all. So I have come round to the idea of the asymmetric week, mainly as I like the idea of seeing my boys more. Plus, as a friend pointed out, it's an opportunity for them to get some daylight (and vitamin D). Especially during the winter, when it's dark at the start and getting dark at the end of the school day. So yes, give us a half day. But please don't make the rest of the week much longer. Ten minutes somewhere perhaps. But no more. Thank you.

parent/carer - primary school

Just to reiterate my point about cutting the lunch break rather than finish later.

parent/carer - primary school

Agree to the asymmetric week in principle, but would it not make more sense to finish at 3:30pm Monday to Thursday, and then 12:55pm or 1pm on a Friday?

parent/carer - primary school

The children have such a busy week with school and homework not to mention their after school activities and I feel the weekend is too short to re-charge their batteries so to speak so I feel it would benefit them, giving them longer to wind down before the school week starting all over again.

parent/carer - primary school

parent/carer - primary school

there are no obvious benefits to children from this proposal, which as you say is being considered to save money primarily, not to benefit childrens education.

parent/carer - primary school

As money is inevitably the reasons for this proposed change, could I suggest the abolishment of the proposed idea of giving free meals to. P1-P3 and put this money towards meeting the shortfall, as I know no one who thinks this is a good idea either.

parent/carer - primary school

I am lucky in that I work part-time and therefore the changes to the school week will not make any difference to childcare. Don't believe it will have much impact on primary school children. Going to school earlier may allow me to go to work earlier on the days that I do work.

parent/carer - primary school

parent/carer - primary school

Would the schools then offer after school club to accomodate kids and help parents that are working.

parent/carer - primary school

If the council are considering saving money - have they considered the closure of the school where there are 5 or less pupils. The school does still require teachers, building, light, heating, transport. Could the argument be made that where there is another school nearby that the pupils could attend that instead. There is also the argument that in class sizes of such a size as mentioned above the pupils do not have the opportunity to socialise with enough children.

parent/carer - primary school

No benefit to us as a family or to the children

With change in nursery times too, for those with nursery aged children and primary school children it will be awful, to get whole family down to school for 08:30am!! then wait till 08:50hrs and worse if you have children in afternoon nursery due to finish times, not like at moment where times are coordinated.

parent/carer - primary school

parent/carer - primary school

Is any research being undertaken on children's academic performance, possible cost savings associated with a reduced summer holiday / extended half term?

parent/carer - primary school

What about school bus - Skirling area

parent/carer - primary school

I feel the school week is long enough with the homework taking up to an hour each evening including weekends

parent/carer - primary school

I dont see benifit in changing school hrs I can only see difficulties for parents who already have pressure to work and comply with school time table.

Instead of adding additional hrs on to school childrens day could lunch time not be shortened by 15 mins to accomodate asymmetric week. Children get hr for lunch 3/4 of hr would be more appropriate rather than add 15 mins on to end of day.

parent/carer - primary school

Concerned that the longer day will be hard for the younger primary school children

parent/carer - primary school

I can see the benefit of the asymmetric school week for senior school but not for primary and feel that the only reason SBC are changing primary education is because of school transport arrangements.

parent/carer - primary school

parent/carer - primary school

I appreciate that frid afternoon sessions will aid teacher cpd time and offer cross school meeting time.

parent/carer - primary school

parent/carer - primary school

I can see that this will save money and realise that SBC has to save n parent/carer - primary school

I think this is being rushed through with minimum information. I would like more clarity and to see figures to support the proposal and what other options are available before making the cuts eg having a games afternoon on a Wednesday afternoon. parent/carer - primary school

Think it would allow teachers to use their planning time more effectively and efficiently and give them more opportunities to share ideas, knowledge and experiences and possibly network with staff from other schools. Would give children the opportunity to have some extra family time or time to take part in an activity or sport. parent/carer - primary school

The benefits of being able to go away for weekends and take the children at lunchtime on a Friday parent/carer - primary school

As I am self-employed, I am able to work around school hours, however on behalf of working parents especially those without wider family support locally, I object since they may find working difficult to do when they are effectively asking employers for every Friday afternoon off work. Why does it have to be a Friday afternoon off? There is a perception that most of the time will not be to train teachers etc. but as an afternoon off for them also. If it was mid-week, there would not be the same assumption. parent/carer - primary school

parent/carer - primary school

I see absolutely no benefit to this move. I accept that I do not know the terms and conditions of teachers employment and I very much respect the work that they do with our children in sometimes very challenging circumstances but I don't see why CPD and training can not take place in some of the very lengthy school holiday time that they receive as well as a short day in terms of pupil to teacher time. 9 - 3.15 with breaks. parent/carer - primary school
parent/carer - primary school

parent/carer - primary school

I know it will only be an extra 35 mins in school each day but I feel this will be too long for a lot of Thick hippys ect children, particularly in the lower primary years.

parent/carer - primary school

I think this is a good idea

parent/carer - primary school

parent/carer - primary school

Would much prefer a 8.30 start. Many parents have to be at work

for nine or earlier, particularly those working in agriculture or commuting to Edinburgh. A 8.30 school start would make life easier for everyone

parent/carer - primary school

parent/carer - primary school

I think this is a poor cost cutting exercise. Kids education is not something that should be messed about with. Stop wasting money on excess management levels and improve efficiency of your administration and this proposal would not be necessary.

parent/carer - primary school

I think there a lot of benefits to this. I know that teachers have difficult jobs and that time to do training, marking and preparation is at a premium, so moving to an asymmetric week would help this.

During the winter months, children don't get to see much daylight or play for very long outside. I would see this as an opportunity for them to play outside and socialise on a Friday afternoon.

By the end of a week, children are tired. I think children would be less exhausted on a Friday if they weren't in school for as long on a Friday. They will still be getting the same length of time in school, over the duration of the week.

I personally think that lunch times don't need to be as long as they currently are.

parent/carer - primary school

I know the asymmetric week is used in other parts of the country successfully and could be a good thing if there was provision for after school activities that children could use on the free afternoon.

parent/carer - primary school

I don't feel SBC have provided enough factual information about how you think efficiency savings will be made to be able to comment any further, a consultation should involve preparing a case full of facts to then allow people to make informed comments/feedback. Hoping the public meetings will be more informative to show how SBC feel this will work when other LA's in Scotland have not implemented this after initial consultation and concerns of parents and teaching staff!

parent/carer - primary school

parent/carer - primary school - support staff - SBC

parent/carer - primary school & secondary school

The parents of the children are ultimately your customers and I guarantee that the majority of parents DO NOT want this change and if this is the case this proposal should be scrapped.

parent/carer - primary school & secondary school

How will this affect school holidays? Will there still be teacher training (in-service holidays?)

parent/carer - primary school & secondary school

I as a paying parent don't see why on a Friday my children can't come

parent/carer - primary school & secondary school

Should we move to Denmark for better education?

parent/carer - primary school - teacher - SBC

parent/carer - primary school - teacher - SBC

personally I feel a Friday afternoon could benefit families and children I am a parent - primary school, employer operating in Scottish Borders

parent/carer - primary school

You may say there is after school care provided after 1.15pm on a Friday

parent/carer - primary school

it would be exceptionally useful if we knew exactly what we are consulting on as how can you consult on when there are no guide lines as to the school week allocation of times.

on near completion of this I feel that there isn't much of a consultation at all its too simplistic to collate proper information from. as until the opening and closing hours are provided its just a make the parent think they are having a say exercise. As there should be a tick box of proposed times thus giving the parent a true say.

parent/carer - primary school

parent/carer - secondary school

Why not look to address generous final salary pension funding at a na parent/carer - secondary school

parent/carer - secondary school

I have concerns about the lunchtime, if this is to be shorter then clubs parent/carer - secondary school

parent/carer - secondary school - school support staff - SBC

May be difficult for younger pupils to have a longer day

parent/carer - secondary school - school support staff - SBC

I don't particularly see any benefits especially when the school will have to be open for nursery. I can't see where the savings are to be made at Primary level

Seems like there is to be huge disruption for a few 'bus' children to link up with primary schools

parent/carer - secondary school - school support staff - SBC

parent/carer - secondary school - school support staff - SBC
parent/carer - secondary school - teacher - SBC

parent/carer - primary school & secondary school

I feel that if the children finish school early some of them of maybe put at risk. If their parents work and can't arrange child care some children may be left alone, which is not acceptable.

parent/carer - primary school & secondary school

I am concerned that schools are still not giving sufficient time for Physical Education. Are the minimum 2 hours each week delivered? There are frequently times when girls hockey teams have no staff support on Saturday mornings and after school. These girls are going to lose interest very quickly. If the Education Authority must move to a week with only 4.5 days in the classroom then why not reintroduce the games afternoon? Surely then we could at least expect that PE staff would be in attendance. When I was at school we had 2 or 3 periods of PE each week and one afternoon of outdoor PE (and Saturday mornings when PE staff were present). The programme was hockey/rugby in the winter and athletics and/or tennis in the summer. Why does this no longer happen? Our youngsters are desperately in need of more encouragement to undertake sports, improve fitness and reduce the growing problem of obesity. I wonder what activities pupils will engage in on free Friday afternoons? For the majority screens will be involved, of that there is no doubt

parent/carer - primary school & secondary school
parent/carer - primary school & secondary school

parent/carer - primary school & secondary school

I am in favour of the asymmetric week for high schools and can see that aligning timetables has huge advantages, especially for the smaller high schools who may otherwise have to limit the range of subjects they can offer. My main concern would be the shorter lunch break as Peebles high school canteen not very big and also this would have a detrimental effect on lunchtime clubs. Peebles was praised in their HMI report for a broad range of extra curricular activities and would not like to see these suffer. After school clubs not really an option as being such a rural community those who rely on school transport would be discriminated against. A free afternoon once a week would be no bad thing and can be used for sports or study but I think midweek would be more productive than a Friday.

parent/carer - primary school & secondary school

I would not support this move unless there is trade off in keeping the 8 subjects at high school

parent/carer - primary school & secondary school

The proposed changes are of no benefit to childrens' education and are solely for the benefit of the Council and teachers.

The priority should be the education of the child not the councils budget or what suits teachers.

In recent years SBC and schools have played around with the time of lunch break and the length of each school period. This means some children at High School (especially those who have to get school transport) have almost six hours between breakfast at 7am and lunch at 12.50pm. A ten minute break at 10.30 is not sufficient time to eat anything substantial when that time includes getting to and from classes, using the bathroom etc. or visiting the canteen.

The hour long periods are too short for practical lessons and too long if a double period. Yet SBC continue to make sweeping changes to the education of our children.

SBC have already recently had a consultation on the asymmetric week and this concept was rejected. Yet they are trying to push it through again. It was rejected- end of.

"Edinburgh does it", seems to be the justification behind most of SBC's changes. Really. That's supposed to be a compelling reason. There are a lot of practices in Edinburgh (and elsewhere) that Primary school children as young as five, will have to walk home at 4p In many rural villages around the Borders there are no child-minders, out of school clubs or available childcare.

Please put the child at the centre of your decision making. As an adult now looking back, what would you have done with an unsupervised afternoon? Would your parents have been able to afford childcare for 1,2,3,4, or more children at school?

parent/carer - primary school & secondary school

I believe that this proposal to move to an asymmetric week would be unnecessary if the Scottish Government would allow Councils to raise the Council Tax.

parent/carer - primary school & secondary school

parent/carer - primary school & secondary school

parent/carer - primary school & secondary school

I think having 2 and a half days off at the weekend is wonderful - more family time.

parent/carer - primary school & secondary school

I fail to see where cost savings are. Scottish Borders council are renowned for poor arithmetic when it comes to education budgets. The figures are not comprehensive or open or transparent enough. there are no benefits to working mums making the school day longer and an afternoon off on a Friday.... childcare costs will rise. Children will be more tired and their grades may suffer!

parent/carer - primary school & secondary school

parent/carer - secondary school - school support staff - SBC

Long weekends :)

parent/carer - secondary school - school support staff - SBC

The only benefit I feel from this happening is the children think its great as they will get a Friday afternoon off.

parent/carer - secondary school - school support staff - SBC

The Region should take a shake to itself - take back control of setting Council tax - even a small increase would go a long way to keep front line services and largely it is socially fair - those with bigger houses can afford to contribute more - I for one would rather pay higher Council Tax than see our services butchered.

For balance I would like to state a benefit - it means that money savings here negate the need to find real cost savings in an organisation bloated with senior management on high salaries....latest appointments with "chic" job titles a case in point!

parent/carer - primary school & secondary school

I am a school student

This really annoys me because the council thinks they know what they're doing but they don't know what we as students want. This was also voted against the last time so why are we still doing it? It may save the country money but shouldnt our education come first. If we get better education we can get better jobs and improve the countrys' economy.

I am a school student

I believe it is only benefitting the people who have come up with this as this means parents will have to arrange child care for younger ones and trust their older ones for long hours. And i hate being at home but its embarassing to have a child minder Benefits far outway the concerns.

I am a school student

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

I see no benefits in primary, not even cost savings since very few staff in my school ever get the chance to go on a course during the day. Maybe other schools should look at why people go on courses during the day, most courses offered by SBC are twilight anyway.

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

There would be a personal financial implication to myself with transport costs

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

Think this will be an advantage to the teaching week because when we have the pupils in for a longer day we can get more done!

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

I found this way of working to be beneficial. We had our collegiate time on a Friday afternoon as well as having time to liaise and plan with colleagues.

Regarding which day of the week would be the short day, I feel very strongly that it should be a Friday. If it were any other day, the week would feel disjointed and disrupted.

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

I feel that there is too much change going on around the children's schooling with the introduction of 600 hours and the impact it brings to throw something else is asking for too much from settings

I am an employer operating in Scottish Borders

I am an employer operating in Scottish Borders

maybe teachers could work an extra week in the summer .Also are we teaching children to only work four and a half days a week?

I am an employer operating in Scottish Borders

As we have a nursery as well will parent's not want Friday afternoons if their older children are not in school?

It could have overwhelming or bad affects for our Day Care.

Other

Other

Other

good for e week end away

It's a long day for little children, are they able to apply themselves and concentrate for that long?

Fri afternoon off would increase quality family time over the weekend for some but probably increase child care costs for many.

Other
Other

No benefits to the move.

Other