

ISSUES/COMMENTS RECEIVED WEEK ENDING 01-02-2014

ISSUES

Child care on a Friday meaning I would have to reduce my hours or pay child care.

Issue of Friday being treated by the children as an easy day and lack of learning on that day.

I have a full time job the hours of which are fitted around my sons education. What i am meant to do on the half day. I either reduce my working hours and loose money or have to pay for child care and loose money. How motivated will the children be on their half day?

1-Length of day for child. the week is already hard enough for a 5year old, stretching the day would make Friday horrible for child, teacher and parents.

2-Childcare arrangements on a Friday as a working set of parents. The cost that this will impact on us as a family.

3-Loss of teachers. there are not enough teachers in post at the moment in our school. Our teachers are stretched to the limit and we feel this would have a terrible impact on their efficiency and morale.

The only issue would be if it was to clash with my working hourse

Will our children's education really benefit from these changes ?

What type of child care would be available for those who can't rely on family ?

What can a child achieve in an extra 15-20 minutes per day ?

The extra time children will spend in child care and the extra cost to the parents.

Childcare - both parents work and rely on elderly family to cover gap in school hours to working hours.

Other concerns are social - the impact of children mulling round streets on a Friday afternoon

No issues

Although not directly affected, my first concern is for families where both parents work and might not have the flexibility to rearrange their week. My second concern is the lunch hour. I do not want it to be decreased and this for two reasons:

- the kids do need a proper break from academic teaching
- lunch-time clubs should not suffer from the change

What about after school activities? eg my son has swimming lessons at 3.30pm and it would be impossible to continue with these if school did not finish until 3.25pm

Extra childcare costs on a Friday and lack of childcare when child moves to high school and at 11 is too young to be left alone all afternoon. The changes to times in the school my son attends mean that he will lose classroom time. His school already starts at 8.30am therefore any reduction in hours on a Friday will impact his education. Reducing break times to make up these lost hours is, to me, the wrong thing to do. Primary children are too young, in my opinion, to have reduced breaks between lessons.

As a working parent I cant finish work at 1pm so would have to organise childcare and we are already stretched financially !!!

Child care issues for Friday afternoon. After school activites with the proposed 3.25 finish Monday - Thurs with particular swimming lessons which start region wide at 3.30pm

I have asked my daughter about the change and she said she is tired after whole day at school and she doesn't want to stay any longer even if she is about to finish earlier on Fridays.

My principal concern is that I strongly believe that children will not get the same benefit from the asymmetric week, versus the current system. Extending the school day Monday - Thursday would have limited, if any, benefit, particularly for primary age children for whom concentration levels would be difficult to sustain and for whom the current (9-3) school day can already be tiring.

This, for me, simply does not compensate for the loss of the Friday afternoon in school, since the added time Mon-Thursday would not be as productive as the Friday afternoon session.

I obviously want my children to get the very best from their education and for them to fulfill their potential. I think the existing system offers them a better chance of doing so, compared with the proposed asymmetric system.

Childcare. My husband and I both work and have primary school age children. Currently we pay for after school club however there is going to be a much greater financial burden to parents if they have to find additional childcare on a Friday afternoon. Where are we meant to find childcare??? This is a rural community with next to no childcare provision as it is. An asymmetric week might work in populated areas where there is currently sufficient childcare provision however it will not work here and you are penalising hardworking parents.

The proposal seems to have no educational merit, and is only cost-saving at senior school level. Teachers who work part-time will be disadvantaged by the changes, as they will be expected to carry out CPD, training and other preparation activities on a Friday afternoon, whether or not it is normally a work day for them. This is bound to have an adverse impact on the workplace culture within the school. This would be felt by children and parents.

As a rule of thumb, any proposed changes to the education system should have educational merit; if this cannot be demonstrated then they should not be introduced, as we risk disadvantaging our children and community.

The long term implications of the move - what changes it will facilitate. I am greatly concerned about losing specialist teachers in primary schools. I am greatly concerned that we keep chopping and are left with only the core curriculum being taught. I believe that music, art and PE are just as important.

Tired P1-3 children. Edinburgh have backed out of their P1-3 increase in hours. My 4 yo child was already weeping when I took her to school as she was too tired. This must have an effect on their learning. Don't tell me kids are adaptable, that's not a response. Kids adapt to lots of things (negative things too), it doesn't mean it's right.

Childcare changes and options. Will it cost me more? Will the local childminders actually lose money?

How my Edinburgh employer will manage my request to change my working days/hours. He already has to manage Edin parents who cannot work Fri afternoons.

Whilst it does not seriously impact my family, I am mindful it does effect some. I also don't like the fact that this is apparently a consultation, as it is going ahead regardless !!

After school child care should not incur ANY additional costs as by my calculations the previous 4 days would be less minutes required for care and this can be picked up in the extra time required on the Friday !!!!!

This would mean a change to my working week and hopefully my employer can accommodate such an early finish on a Friday.

Child care issues on the shorter day. If happens will need to adapt current working hours.

Would there be the provision of after school care or activities in rural locations where school role approx 50?

1. child care for the free afternoon - there may be a lot of children all looking for care in that short space of time.

2. the longer days during the rest of the week may make it less attractive (ie shorter time so less income) for the current afterschool care providers that I use to pickup and look after the children for the time I need. Or maybe they will just put the prices up.

my issues are the length of the proposed school day. My boys are in p1 and p2 and are tired when finishing at 3, so they are going to be extra tired if finishing later. I dont agree with the half day on friday, and if going in impact on my 3 year old too. Also after school clubs will have to change their times.

With my youngest child going to playgrou in afternoons the times for picking up are perfect just now, but this is now going to get messed up, and that is not just because of this but because of the 600 hours coming in in aug too.

Increased school hours mean a longer day for early years primary school children, P1 and 2 pupils already have longer hours than same age children in Edinburgh schools. Finishing at 1.15pm on a Friday - I assume the children will have lunch at school else this is in my opinion too late to finish. By the time we get home and lunch is prepared it will be quarter to 2pm, far too late for my children to eat lunch. This will be worse for children on school buses. I would favour finishing at 12.30 on a friday instead. I have concerns about childcare issues on Friday afternoons for working parents, at present we do not have anything in place.

My daughter is concerned it will mess up her after school activities, which it will

Childcare costs on a Friday for working parents.

As working parent's this will impact on us as a family as we will need to find additional childcare for the day that children will leave school at lunchtime. This will mean paying extra money towards this which for many parent's could prove difficult particularly during these tough financial times.

I would have to change my working week or reduce my hours at work to accommodate the half day. I know that Lauder does not have the childcare capacity to cope with this change. Slightly longer days are going to affect all after school activities in the area, especially for example travelling to Duns for swimming lessons and then also impact on the time available to complete homework
The council is moving forward with plans that are damaging.

The council says it wants to hear from people, yet the decision has already been made. Its duplicitous.

Much like shared headships, the effect on schools will be devastating.

The budget for education is increasingly devoured by executive management, implementation of the 'system', which means that teachers and headmasters are bound by policy and cannot run the schools the way they see fit.

The provision of childcare on Friday afternoon.

How local services for children such as swimming lessons will be impacted.

As a working single mom, whose employer has already allowed the working of current school hours, this move would mean I do not have childcare. My children attend Ayton primary and there is no available childcare in the area. I am unable to change working hours so I would have 2 children with no where to go. Also if childcare was made available who will incur the costs as I cannot afford to do so.

The issues are arranging adequate childcare for Fridays. On a personal level this will either necessitate the cost of paying for childcare for a Friday afternoon or leaving work at lunchtime on a Friday. Being an employee of the council and being on the flexi-time system this will result in me having to make up extra hours the rest of the week which may or may not be possible depending on the needs of the Dept. I work for.

None

as both myself and my sons mother work during the week, an asymmetric week would cause us all sorts of problems. His mother is a chef and only gets from 3-4.30 to see him each day as she works difficult hours resulting in barely an hour for my son to see his mother each day and im afraid of what kind of impact this will have on him in life. Also with schools finishing at 1.15 on a Friday would result in no-one being able to watch him from 1-3. Us working parents cant be expected to change our working hours as easy as that, theres a good chance our employers wont allow it

1, no childcare 2, The cost of implementing childcare for 2 children

That the half day will not be on a Friday and what will happen with the lunches on the half day. The system works at the moment where there is anonymity to who is entitled to free lunches, will this still be in place?

None. No issues I'm all in favour.

The reduced number of teachers and support staff means that the students education is directly affected - I wish the management would acknowledge this instead of lying to us saying that the experience will be the same - IMPOSSIBLE unless you have managed to stop time.

1. I am concerned that the children will have less teaching time.

2. I am worried that teachers will have less time to prepare for lessons, especially important with the implementation of the new curriculum.

3. I am concerned that what we have heard about the synchronised timetable will lead to nothing. I remember this type of increased co-operation between schools being discussed when we went to shared headships in the primaries and in our experience there has been very little of the children sharing experiences (even if teachers do plan more etc together).

4. I would be very concerned if the half day was taken through the week (Wednesday has been mentioned) rather than on a Friday, as I feel that the children would benefit far less from this arrangement. If the half day was on a Friday children could benefit from the long weekend for clubs and activities, visits etc, and also making them more productive at school through the week, as Friday afternoons are notorious for everyone being too tired!

5. Will there be childcare provision made available for working parents in/ near school buildings for Friday afternoons? Will this be subsidised by the council?

6. I am confused by the finishing times on Friday? Will children have to have their lunch at school? If they go home for lunch will they have to come back to school? We live rurally and have a bus collecting them and returning them from school. They are collected forty minutes prior to the beginning of the school day and get home forty minutes after school comes out. The asymmetric will significantly lengthen their day which will be hard on very young children. My eldest starts secondary in August and will have a minibus/taxi to take him to the village to catch the village bus and vice versa at the end of the day and I really feel it will be very late before he gets home. Will this issue be looked at where the taxi/minibus may proceed directly to school, rather than dropping off to catch a different bus? Same at night? I would have less issues if this were the case, but I don't like the idea of in the winter, my child waiting in the dark for his connecting minibus or taxi home.

lack of informal consultation time.

Death of extra-curricular activities.

How will Friday afternoons be used for teaching staff? I have worked an asymmetric week in Edinburgh city council and really enjoyed it. Friday was kept for faculty meetings, whole school meetings, learning community meetings and regional CPD. I must stress though that these did not all happen every single week. Therefore allowing a balance of meetings and teaching staff allowed time to complete their own work such as prep, marking CPD etc. I have heard several rumours regarding Friday afternoons being strictly regulated and staff being kept in schools all afternoon every week. This is not how successful asymmetric weeks are implemented elsewhere. This is also how learning and teaching will deteriorate. It is essential that staff are given the time to ensure adequate preparation, marking time, consultation with other staff and CPD can be taken and improve our teachers.

On a personal level this could lead to childcare issues if a full Friday afternoon is required every week. My son's school has no childcare in school and child minders are not willing to have a space left for children for only 1 afternoon when this could be filled full time by younger children. Furthermore, I do not want n

Concerned that the morning only day will turn into a waste of teaching time. Am aware that with schools in midlothian (who already do asymmetric week) often have a short friday, and on those morning many have 'golden time', playtime where the children bring in toys from home for a joint play time with classmates and generally do not have nay teaching at all on those mornings. This appears to be against the proposed increase in academic achievement and is a waste of time.

Second conern is how out of school clubs will cope with the short day - if there is not to be provision of out of school care then it will seriously impact us as a family as we cannot change our days worked at our jobs at present as if no out of school care (as is presently the proposed case in West Linton Primary - our local school) then either my husband or I will have to give up work - this means we will not be able to pay our mortgage and meet our bills and therefore are going to have to move.

My main concerns relate to nave younger school age children (P1-P3).

I am aware that, especially in P1, they already struggle with the working day 8:55 - 15:00 in our particular school. On top of this they also have homework to complete when they get home.

I do feel strongly that the extra few minutes in school every day will make them even more weary.

I can see that older primary children (P4-7) and secondary school children would not be as affected by this small change, but with the younger ones I do think there needs to be a serious consideration of there needs.

I would be concerned that teachers will still struggle to meet the requirements of the Cirriculum for Excellence as I know some of them are regularly working at

Childcare - availability and cost.

Loss of opportunities for children at school.

Length of school day for children.

Lack of provision for children after school in rural areas.

We live in a rural location and my concern is the affect on passenger transport, will some routes get picked up extra early in order to accomodate school start times resulting in childern hanging around a closed school building until school starts. My school is Denholm and at present the primary school starts at 8:45 and finishes at 3:15 in order to suit buses bringing siblings to high school and I'm just not clear whats going to happen should high school in Hawick start at the same time as primary in Denholm.

Will there actually be better use of teachers' time with Friday afternoons free? If sharing classes across schools by distance learning, that this is all in place before the new school year starts and not be getting set up in the first term. Is it known what new equipment may be needed for shared classes across schools and if so, is there a budget to cover this?

Children coming home at variable times must be an issue for most parents.

Childcare

Alignment of the timetables as a method of increasing the provision of courses on a shared basis, presumably through remote learning in the Senior Phase? The quality of teaching must be as good for the remote learner as it is for the student in the host school. Are the courses and IT facilities adequately prepared for this? An investment in these resources would be needed, therefore negating any savings. Unless students can be reassured that they will receive equivalent teaching experiences remotely and in situ, the uptake of courses offered on a remote basis will be low, hence rather than increasing choice, it disadvantages students at smaller schools.

Having lived and worked in Edinburgh and having children attending school, the asymmetric week was very difficult to manage in terms of childcare. Additionally, particularly in the primary school sector, very little academic work was achieved on a Friday. Given my experience, I feel that it is not advisable to move to the asymmetric week

Pupils may not bother to go for half a day. Longer hours in winter time will result in pupils going home in the dark particularly along main roads which are very busy. Imagine the scenario of buses running late in the winter and then trying to get out of Galashiels. This is putting children at risk. Pupils get the best out of a shorter day at school as they are fresher and less tired. Also pupils on the autistic spectrum do not do well with change and I see any changes will cause problems with their settled routine. Saving money could be helped by not having lights on in the classroom unless necessary. I see these lights on in the middle of summer. Education should never be cut back on.

Too long a school day, too early a start and finish for bus children.

Lunches on a Friday - what happens? Children could be going too long without a meal.

Inconvenience - childcare for working parents.

No issues

Child care for a Friday afternoon is a major concern to me. The jobs available in the Borders is limited, and those where one is able to finish at lunchtime on a Friday will be very difficult to find. There is a lack of childcare facilities in the smaller villages, therefore creating difficulties for working parents whose jobs are integrated around the 5 equal day school week.

Na

At the moment the children do not seem to have full time teachers teaching them. This looks as if it will get worse.

How can you guarantee the teaching level the children will get.

Why should the day change because the council say they will not have the money?

No issues regarding child care etc, just wondered what impact would have on lunchtime activities as Earlston currently has a longer lunch than other Borders s

Issues for me are childcare. Currently work in East Lothian and only have 1 flexible working request per year. Current flexible working agreed for the coming y

Nothing I can't sort out as my responsibility as a parent

Maybe I need to go back to school for arithmetic but having added up my daughters current school week. it is 35 hrs, if the suggested asymmetric week is used, that adds up to 31hrs and 5 mins. I would only have an issue if an asymmetric week resulted in a reduced number of hours in school for pupils. I work at the BGH as a doctor in palliative care and chose a school out of catchment which best suited my children. As such I do not have a bus to take them home and would be unable to leave work to collect them. I currently drop them in Melrose to take a municipal bus but they cannot wait at my workplace until I finish work.

I am concerned at the proposed reduction in the length of lunchtimes at the high school. Pupils will lose out on the wealth of extra-curricular activities currently on offer. Without a Friday lunchtime altogether, and a reduction in time on the other days, there is bound to be a detrimental effect. Changing these activities to after school means that many pupils who travel by bus will not be able to take part.

Berwickshire High has only recently changed to 33 hour week with a different pattern of lessons which seems to now be working OK and parents have changed work-patterns accordingly; we were promised that all schools would move to this pattern if it worked

Will there be enough time for lunchtime and after school clubs, music practise etc to work properly in a 4 1/2day week?

5 periods on a Friday finishing at 1.15pm is a very long day for children, especially those who will be getting buses home before they get any lunch. They are used to eating earlier and the 5th lesson on a Friday will be wasted with lack of energy.

Getting bus companies to provide school transport all at the same time - has always been problem where there are shared bus routes eg Swinton and Coldstream Primary Schools

Very long day for Primary School children from rural areas who have additional long bus trip at beginning and end of the day
none

Longer school days will mean pupils walking to or from school in the dark in winter. This will inevitably lead to more pupils being driven to school.

Proposed school day is too long for primary pupils

Older kids will be hanging around unsupervised on Friday afternoons.

Parents will want more Friday afternoons off, causing problems for other employers.
Lack of childcare when, as a single parent I have to work and cannot afford childcare.
Do not see the benefits for pupils only staff.

Are teachers' salaries going to be reduced? They are working fewer hours. Any other profession (and in any other part of SBC) a reduction in hours would mean a reduction in pay.

Transport

what arrangements are proposed for children who live outwith 3 miles from school and have to use public buses for their journey which will not reach the school in time for the proposed new start time of 8.50 and will also have to wait 50 minutes on the half day for a bus home ?

Mis-alignment between asymmetric school week and fully symemetric working week in employment. Heading back early from Edinburgh office after lunch to be home for 4pm pupils return can be more easily arranged than staying home all day to be there at 1:30pm.

how does this save money as you will have to provide extra curricular classes/activities.

what consultation has been active with local business.

Lunch time at Peebles

High school the time to get lunch will be shorter ? And the canteen is too small to accomadate all pupils . They will not have the some time to go down into the town .

As a parent- If the Assymetric week does happen will the buses collect and drop off the children at the early finish time on the Friday or will the children have to wait till 3.50pm for their bus?

As a nursery teacher its really important, professionally, that I am fully involved in CAT meetings and staff development therefore my RICCT cover will need to happen on a Friday afternoon as well even though the nursery will still be open at that time.

Child care for my child on the Friday afternoons. Attended a meeting at our local High School June 2013 to hear about CfE and the change of timetable and length of days to allow coverage of CfE. Lack of foresight within SBC as my child has just started High School with 3 long days 2 shorter days and this will change next year to the 4 longer days and 1 shorter day. Distruption to staff at the High School for change again.

as a parent of high school children my concern is that the vast majority of children will be left un supervised from 13:30 on a friday afternoon until their parents finish work. this could lead to an increase in accidents and anti social behaviour. What do yo expect all these young people to do on a friday afternoon? Not all jobs are flexible and with the current economic climate people cant afford to lose work. school is a place of safety for some children and less time in school puts some children at risk and will increase the demand on other services such as social work, police and health.

Childcare on a Friday afternoon?

School time and nursery time drop offs and pick ups will be different times?

Why close at 1.15 on a Friday why not have a short break in the am and finish at 12?

Single, working parent who can't be at home for early finishing.

Transport to and from school at different times. Is transport going to be available for non-catchment pupils?

Impact on teaching and availability of subject choices/ time tabling.

Potential changes to times of school transport.

The foreshortened school day proposed for a Friday will make it very difficult (if not impossible) to co-ordinate pick-up with existing work commitments. This will inevitably lead to considerable additional household expenditure for childcare; that is if we can actually find a childcare professional willing to accept the travel and responsibility for collection from primary school.

My main concern is the impact on working parents who will either have to reduce their working hours or engage expensive childcare on Friday afternoons.

I have no issues with this.

As working parents we would need childcare on a Friday afternoon

The number of secondary school teachers who will lose their jobs, and the enormous impact this must have for the pupils. I fail to see how a reduction of 90 teachers can increase subjects available to the pupils and would be keen for an explanation.

My children both live a long way from the school and in the winter in particular it is still dark when they have to get on the school bus. There are no street lights and we require a head light and reflective vest to alert the bus driver to us standing there.

If they do not finish until 1.15pm on Friday and I assume there is no provision for lunch then they will not get home for lunch until 2pm.

I will have to negotiate a change in working hours which will be complicated. So children likely to be home alone for 1-2 hours.

I work most Fridays so would need to increase my childcare at a cost to me. Starting earlier would affect my starting time at work as well. I am most opposed to this change.

There are no issues for me, we have recently moved from an area that worked the 4.5 day week at both primary and secondary level and found it worked well.

None - it would be beneficial to us all as a family.

I don't have an issue with it. Think it is a great move.

To long a day for young children

Cause trouble for after school activities and childminding

We have one child in an out of catchment secondary and two at primary (catchment) and therefore have to arrange transport for pickup times - will the new arrangements allow for secondary/primary pickups at different times - them all finishing at the same time will restrict parental choice.

Shorter lunches for pupils at 50 minutes every day; pupils now seem to be on the verge of slavery at school.

I work 5 days a week and I'm not going to have to take Fridays off due to having nobody to look after my young children. I can not afford childcare and my income will now be heavily affected. Thanks SBC.

It currently takes 1.5 hours to travel just 17 miles by school bus (2 buses), on a Friday it would mean my child not eating after breakfast at 7am until about 3pm presumably. Many adults wouldn't be happy at the prospect of 8 hours before a lunchbreak. Also how am I supposed to work and be at home on a Friday for my children? I have 3 children and can barely afford after school club as it is.

My only concern would be in the winter, it would be getting dark when pupils leave school.

The length of the school day for my P1 child, going from 2 and a half hours a day at nursery to a 6 hour day is tough, but even longer will extend the day.

And starting earlier and finishing later will mean travelling to and from school in the dark for longer.

Earlier start of school day (by 10 mins in my case) - as a working parent with children currently both in primary and secondary schools, this 'loss' of 10 minutes will be critical in my work start time, and at present I can see no solution to the problem it will present to me and my employers.

- Again, in the area of childcare; the Friday afternoons will present a serious challenge to me

- within the school day itself, the loss of morning registration is likely to be highly detrimental, as this 10 minute slot of time represents an important 'settling in' period where guidance and other pastoral issues are addressed. In other schools where morning registration has been abandoned this makes for a very hectic start to the day for staff and pupils alike, and has not been well- received by either.

- I wonder realistically, how much meaningful 'staff development' work can be achieved in the short period of time on a Friday afternoon.

- pressure on teaching staff is already very high due to implementation of new courses, and this proposal contains many elements - particularly in relation to reduced staff numbers and time allocation - which can only make the situation worse, which is beneficial to neither staff nor pupils.

Childcare issue on Fridays and time for homework mid week. Afterschool clubs would be harder or impossible to attend due to overlap in start/finish times.

I have no issues and am in favour of the asymmetric week -this is standard practice in other regions and is well tested as a way of managing the school week .

As a local business owner, I am concerned about where the school children go on a Friday afternoon as most parents will be working! Many locals already avoid the High Street during the School lunch break, the likelihood is that the children will congregate in town on a Friday too and this could have a negative affect on local businesses.

Competitive extra curricular activities, i.e. hockey, rugby and chess, which are held after school, would finish in the early evening, leaving nearly no time for home learning and/or other activities. Pupil's lives will turn into, sleep-eat-school, with many pupils getting high off caffeine to stay awake and finish their work. Also, it would be too dark for outdoor sports in the winter which would make, for example, playing hockey, a health and safety risk. A&E would be heaping with various sporting injuries, simply because the school can't afford to turn the flood lights on. I think that 7 periods a day is too much. Pupils become tired and lose their concentration before 2nd period as it is. 3 periods in a row of solid education without a break is too much to ask of the pupils, no one can concentrate when you can hear someones stomach grumbling at the other side of the class room. I, personally, struggle to see a single advantage of this proposal, but i know for sure that it will damage the learning and focus of pupils. It will cause a negative effect on the pupils work, and also their lifestyle.

The length of the lunch hour is a factor in how the pupils return to school in the afternoon. They must be given enough time to eat and, ideally, to attend a school club or meeting. If they don't have time to walk into town more will use the canteen and queueing becomes a time factor.

Teaching and learning will be negatively impacted on in the secondary schools. A 7 period day will be too much for many, especially junior classes. It is also extra work for staff, amid all the other curricular changes to prepare for a 7 period day. Lunchtime is a very important block for secondary staff to offer one to one help or extra curricular activities, and this will not be possible in a reduced time frame. As a class teacher I am very very rarely out of class as a result of meetings - meetings are done in lunchtimes or after school in general - why would this constitute a big saving?

Length of lunchtimes in relation to extra curricular activities.

This will have an impact on how many clubs will run and how many pupils will be able to attend. In particular the Drama Club as we rely heavily on this time to rehearse for the school show.

If extra curricular clubs are moved to a Friday afternoon this will have a bigger impact as it will curtail the numbers of pupils able to attend as transport will be called for 1.15pm. This will effectively exclude pupils and their choice will be reduced. Not very CfE!

extra child care costs.

I would be very interested to know about the research / evidence presented to assess the effects (longer term) on increasing the length of the student day in relation to the ability of both primary and secondary pupils and their ability to concentrate for lesson, maintain their attention span and to perform task with the same levels of ability as they would have done on the shorter day i.e. the impact it will have on pupil learning. It's all very well to say that there is no reduction in the number of hours that the children are being taught and the asymmetric week allows teachers time to study ./ plan etc.etc. - but this MUST surely be balanced against the outputs of the child and how this will be assessed by those making this decision..

After-school care on Fridays

COMMENTS**RESPONDENT**

parent/carer - primary school

parent/carer - primary school

If this goes ahead then entry to schools should be limited to catchment areas unless under exceptional circumstances. unless you reduce class sizes the teachers will not be able to teach our children properly and you will see an increase in stress related leave and our children's education will suffer.

parent/carer - primary school

parent/carer - primary school

I am not sure of the change and how it will affect my child but if the change will benefit my child then it may be ok my main concern is after school activities such as dance and sports etc how will they be affected

parent/carer - primary school

parent/carer - primary school

there are no positives from a parenting point of view.
The school week should be spent at school and that time that is available should be filled with teaching.
Other countries manage to do it.

parent/carer - primary school

I used to work in the East Lothian area where this asymmetric week was implemented and from an employers point of view getting staff who wanted to work Fridays was difficult due to the impact on their childcare.

parent/carer - primary school

I can fully see the benefit in a secondary setting but do have concerns for primary children doing a longer day
I think it is a good idea.
Ideally start at 0830 so we can get to work for 9

parent/carer - primary school

parent/carer - primary school

Who is expected to pay for extra child care on a Friday

parent/carer - primary school

Having experienced this living in Edinburgh the only benefit is if off work on a Friday having the afternoon free to go away.

parent/carer - primary school

The only benefit I can see is financial to the council - another example of cost being put before childrens education standards

parent/carer - primary school

A lot of parents wont go to the trouble I have to look it up online, download the form etc etc

parent/carer - primary school

parent/carer - primary school

I would also have problems with finding somebody to take care of her when I am at work.

parent/carer - primary school

parent/carer - primary school

There is absolutely no benefit to working families. The only benefit is to teachers who want a peaceful friday afternoon!

We have been told that this is a budget cutting exercise and the budget that is to be cut is teaching salaries. I don't see how you can cut primary teachers when you have to stick to the ratios laid down by Government. Cutting teachers is not going to be of any benefit to our children or their education.

parent/carer - primary school

Yet again, a cost-saving measure is to be introduced that will actually increase costs for lower income families. Those on low incomes already struggle with childcare. This proposed change to the school week can only make things harder for them, their children and our community generally.

parent/carer - primary school

I am disappointed how 'we' continue to look at things in isolation.

- I read about an increase in early years nursery care. This is independent of this asymmetric week proposal. For parents, this has a massive impact when you have children at different stages. It has a real impact on people.

- I read about the additional funding for free school meals . Who decided that was a priority for spending? Is that more important than having enough teachers to teach our kids.

I am not naive nor stupid. I get that 'it's not that easy'. But you know what? It should be. Start looking holistically, together.

parent/carer - primary school

parent/carer - primary school

Can SBC not offer better after school clubs as part of this change also to support working parents?

parent/carer - primary school

Would potentially allow children more available time to pursue outside interests(sport, music etc) rather than late nights after school.

Could be better for homework/coursework time planning.

Concern initially for longer days for infant year groups, need to plan day for balance of work and fun/play learning. Do think that teaching staff will be aware of this and will address to meet needs of their pupils.

With such huge savings to be made I would rather see streamlining of schools working week to make some efficiencies rather than loss of needed services such as learning support, specialist teaching (music,PE,drama) etc which are crucial to provide children with a quality and balanced education.

parent/carer - primary school

parent/carer - primary school

i dont see any benefits to this

parent/carer - primary school

I see this as purely a cost cutting exercise for the council. Have alternative options been fully investigated?

parent/carer - primary school

I appreciate that the reasons for the move would be financial but can I suggest that free school meals for those who aren't in need of them would be a better place to start budget cuts

parent/carer - primary school

My understanding was that teacher training day were full days not just on Friday afternoons. Therefore I don't think that a half day in a Friday actually benefits anyone?

parent/carer - primary school

Will buses be provided for all school children (including those

who catch public buses due to not being far enough away from the school catchment area to have a school bus). Have bus/taxi companies been consulted on the impact it could have on their business.

parent/carer - primary school

parent/carer - primary school

parent/carer - primary school

If P1-3 children are given a free hot meal, will it then be taken away from them on a Friday?

parent/carer - primary school

I feel that this would be disruptive not only to parents but breaks up the consistency for the children. Also longer days I feel would be detrimental to primary school children as days are long enough especially for the younger ones. Also working within the DWP it is evident that the type of employment within the Borders and the hours employers operate does not lend itself to give Friday afternoons off to parents!

parent/carer - primary school

Essentially it will result in additional costs either monetary, timewise or both for the Parents. The Teachers are already allocated additional days off for training, meaning extra costs for the Parents. The children are already tired after a normal day and given, in my view, too much homework. They will now have extra time at school on 4 days to make up for Fridays and as a result be even more tired. There must be no increase in the amount of homework the children are given as a result of this. Gradually, over the last decade the Teachers have been granted more benefits and are working steadily less time with the children. At the same time the pressures on the children are gradually increasing with homework, projects and research all needing to be done at home with the parents. When do the Parents actually have any meaningful opportunity to influence decisions at school about the way our children are taught and what they are taught? Never. The Parents council at our school are wholly occupied with raising funds so that basic equipment can be bought for the children, most members of the population would assume are the norm for any school. It is the Parents and the cl

THE CONCEPT OF CONSULTATION IS ONE WHERE PEOPLE ARE ASKED THEIR VIEWS BEFORE A DECISION IS MADE, NOT AFTER. THIS CONSULTATION IS PURELY AN EXERCISE TO SPARE THE ELECTED OFFICIALS THEIR MIDDLE CLASS GUILT.

parent/carer - primary school

Seems like a good idea

parent/carer - primary school

parent/carer - primary school

Are the buses going to be at the school for the earlier start time?

If so is there a cost to sbc for this?

parent/carer - primary school

i hope that when the school time have been decided, that extra curricular activities are taken into account.

Will there be an opportunity for an after school club?

parent/carer - primary school

Having lived in Edinburgh and experience the asymmetric week for 7 years I would say the children benefit greatly from a half day on a Friday. I think they work hard at school and with their homework during the week and only have the 2 days to wind down isn't quite enough - for them to enjoy school or have good quality family time. That's my experience.

parent/carer - primary school & secondary school

Having listened to Mr Rodger I thought he was an educator and not the politician he appears to now be - avoiding questions, being vague etc His legacy is going to be a demotivated workforce, unhappy employers and parents - well done. The Borders is NOT Edinburgh and the Lothians, we are different so stop trying to make us the same.

parent/carer - primary school & secondary school

Personally, I am actually really in favour of the asymmetric week as I am in the fortunate position to work part-time, mornings only and it will really suit my family. My children are very tired by a Friday, and do a lot of activities at the weekend (school hockey, swimming etc) and it will be good for them to have more down time. We also like to visit family at the weekend and a lunchtime start on a Friday will enable us to beat the traffic as well as giving my children more time with their grandparents. We have good friends who live in East Lothian who really like the asymmetric week, as it gives them much more freedom to do activities that there may not be time for through the week. It is however an earlier finish in East Lothian, with the children having lunch at home (and free school meals children getting a packed lunch to take home) which I would prefer for our children if that is an option.

parent/carer - primary school & secondary school

I'm really not sure of any benefits personally. Just concerns on how long a day it will make it for the children. Primary school children especially are often ready to 'switch off' prior to 3pm and concentration may well lag towards the end of a long day.

parent/carer - primary school & secondary school

I find it hard to see any educational benefits what so ever.

parent/carer - primary school & secondary school

parent/carer - primary school, teacher - SBC

I see no obvious benefits to pupils or parents.

parent/carer - primary school, teacher - SBC

This is a good opportunity to have some consistency within schools as in our small primary the teachers out of class hours have been regularly covered by surplus staff in the past which leads to even less stability for our children.

My concern as above that this will put more pressure on teachers to meet the needs of the Curriculum for Excellence

parent/carer - primary school

Where are the High School pupils going to go on a Friday afternoon? Hawick High St bad enough at lunchtime let alone the whole of a week day afternoon...Impact on local businesses as a result, and also as parents taking time off to look after kids impacting on local small business.

Where are the financial savings coming from? Supply teachers alone cannot surely make up the Â£11m?

parent/carer - primary school

How much of each school's schedule will still be at the Headteacher's discretion? I'm talking about shortening the main lunch break in order to accommodate a 10min break for children in the afternoon or the possibility that Friday mornings could become 'school lite' and a bit of a doss day as the pupils and staff know they finish early?

parent/carer - primary school

The only benefit is that Friday afternoons would be freed up if travelling somewhere for the weekend and gives pupils more time for hobbies, sports etc

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

I cannot see any benefits if you are a working parent with children at school. How much is this going to cost the tax payer with regards to re-scheduling school transport.

parent/carer - secondary school

Children thrive on routine, and I imagine it is easier for them if all school days follow the same pattern.

parent/carer - secondary school

A longer day will use more electricity and it means that changes will be made to bus routines. This could result in a gridlock to get in and out of Galashiels. Also the proposed housing for the railway will further add to the chaos. I do not see any benefit at all in this change.

The risks of doing this will outweigh any benefits

parent/carer - secondary school

parent/carer - secondary school

I think it's a very positive move. Makes sense to reduce Friday hours and if this aids budgets all the better.

parent/carer - secondary school

parent/carer - secondary school

Na

parent/carer - secondary school

parent/carer - secondary school

I cannot see any benefits to these changes.

parent/carer - secondary school

I can see no benefits of the move to the asymmetric week. I see more difficulties for parents throughout the region managing their childcare/work commitments. More parents will need to pay more for childcare to cover this Friday afternoon. Any savings the Council make = payments parents will need to make for childcare.

parent/carer - secondary school

If the half day is Friday that would give us the opportunity as a family to extend the weekend if we wanted to go away.

parent/carer - secondary school

I am happy for this transition I have listened to Glen and his team and fully support the reasons given for this move.

I would also like to thank them all for giving their time and patience to this

up and on!

parent/carer - secondary school

It would be a great shame if any lunchtime clubs and after school clubs that currently take place on a Friday were lost.

parent/carer - secondary school

I cannot imagine I am the only working parent who will struggle with this - if you have less working parents you will have less taxpayers and subsequently less budget

parent/carer - secondary school

Working in East Lothian and Mid Lothianina community development role I have seen the knock on effects of an asymmetric week and it is only a popular move for teachers. Police, Youth workers and in general the community suffers from unsupervised young people, bored and frustrated in the community. I see bigger issues for those children who live in very rural areas particularly in the winter months when travel may be disrupted anyway. The knock on effects of parents having to spend extra on heating, travel, childcare compromise many parents already living close to their financial limits.

parent/carer - secondary school

parent/carer - secondary school

This is yet another way for teachers and those in schools to get off early for the weekend. Why was an asymmetrical week with a short day on Wednesday not proposed? There are very few other professions where this would even be mooted. Yet, this will likely be put through when it is not good for education. It is merely good for a few who will be able to have a longer weekend.

parent/carer - secondary school

parent/carer - secondary school

Could this move be the trigger for service bus timetables to no longer observe school day timings and enable the Public Transport team at SBC to work with industry partners on providing more regular "N minutes past" services every hour of the day?

parent/carer - secondary school

parent/carer - secondary school

parent/carer - secondary school

If money can be saved in the assymetric week model and that means cuts in other areas can be avoided that would be very good. It would be beneficial to collegiate working if all teaching staff were available at the same time- Friday pm

parent/carer - secondary school

It would be a positive move if someone had the foresight to try and work with P.E staff and Active Schools to create the physical opportunities pupils need and providing this on the Friday afternoons to alleviate the child care issues as well as hitting the 2hr per week P.E target. As a class teacher I can not give up 2hrs for P.E during a shorter week at the expense of literacy and numeracy.

parent/carer - secondary school

the uk is way behind other nations when it comes to the education of our young people. We should be raising the standards, employing more teachers, better training and more assesment and regular evaluation of the teachers and the lessons they provide. friday afternoons could be non teaching time but with other organisations doing things like Duke of Edinburgh awars, john Muir awards, forrest skills, community engagement. Volunteering or local businesses offering work experience. "COME ON SBC THINK OUT OF THE BOX"

parent/carer - secondary school - teacher - SBC

This model does work in East Lothian however everything shuts down after 12.

parent/carer - secondary school - teacher - SBC

No benefits only a huge set of unnecessary problems.

The council may be saving money, but what about the already hard-pressed parents? Especially single, working parents who can't be at home to receive children when they finish early. How is transport to be aligned with non-catchment pupils, who the council already ignore and won't even give privileged lifts to?

parent/carer - secondary school - teacher - SBC

Bus travel and Friday afternoon child care- minor issue for me as youngest child moving to secondary, however child care at this age is conversely more problematic and I would still be reluctant to leave a child of this age alone at home.

parent/carer - secondary school

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

I see little or no benefit for hard working families trying to coordinate this extra time away from work.

I feel that this proposal is a pure result of the fiscal constraints imposed on the local authority. Furthermore, the likely results from an anonymous consultation process will be contrived to suit the council executives' cost-cutting desires. This will in turn alienate the local government from the tax-paying community, whilst causing further strain between employers and employees who need to coordinate the additional parental responsibilities necessitated by the move to an asymmetric week.

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

I support the principle of aligning timetables, but do not see why the change to the school week is required in order to achieve this.

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

I think this would mean more children hanging around town on Friday afternoons

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

I am also unsure on looking at the proposed school day, how the secondary school day (Mon-Thurs) appears the same/less than pupils currently attend? How can this be? How long will their lunch break be?? So short that the very important lunch clubs that they meet peers and others with similar interests must be unavailable. In line with GIRFEC, this aspect of young peoples well being must surely be considered.

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

I don't see any benefits to our household with this change of hours.

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

Strong objection to this change

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

classroom and inservice days it can only be of benefit to both the pupils and the teachers.

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

As a Primary school teacher (in England) I currently teach my class from 8.50 a.m. until 3.30 p.m. five days a week - longer than the suggested extended days.

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

Think it will be tempting to take kids out of school more often on a friday

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

I support the proposed changes in terms of alligning the timetable in the secondary school allowing for the sharing of resources and providing more course choice

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

If this is a cost cutting exercise, why don't the numerous executives and directors in the council take pay cuts from their Â£100k+ salary? Of course, it's always the working class affected by changes.

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

You still have to heat the schools 5 days a week and there will be issues with availability of school buses, childcare, etc. Many parents are already stretched having to take far too many days off for in service days and holidays and this will not help. It'll put far too much additional strain on parents and families.

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

Whilst my children don't attend after school clubs, it will affect this as well, shortening the time available to travel to and from and complete classes.

From the parents point of view having to arrange child care on the friday afternoon will be an issue too.

Is there really any need to rush this proposal through for primary schools starting in August 2014?

From attending a public meeting on this, while the benefits for Secondary schools was highlighted, aside from travel arrangements for bus companies, there was no clear reason for this to have to be pushed through for primary schools.

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

This seems to me to be the very best solution to hard economic times

.
The added advantage is that in the summer months children can be out enjoying the sunshine and in the winter months there is scope for parents to share care and have friends round to play freeing up the weekends for family .

I am assuming thought has been given to provision of a meal for pupils who get free meals on Fridays

There needs to be an increase in afterschool care or after school clubs for parents who work -these might be set up on a voluntary basis or comercial but provision would need to be made for working parents.

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

Just sacrifice my education to save 50p; that makes me feel important.

Question: If the council and schools are not doing very well financially (i.e. their in debt), how come my school got a £2000 laser printer.

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

It is difficult to argue advantages for this from a better learning standpoint. Pupils are very tired by the end of the day. However, cost has to be considered these days. With fewer staff out of school at meetings which could be held on a Friday afternoon under the new system, supply costs could be cut.

parent/carer - primary & secondary school - Employer - Scottish Borders

There is no clarity as to how many Fridays staff will be expected to attend for. We all regularly go over our working hours anyway - are we to be expected to put in even more hours? Many staff have children at SBC schools and will now have to try to pay for childcare on a Friday afternoon.

I am a school student

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

no benefits

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

My daughter is a single mother whose child is in P6 in East Lothian, which has had this system for some time. It causes her no problems, and she scoffs at the Borders gloom-merchants

Other

Other

Other

Other