

# *Ysgol Gynradd Tairgwaith Primary School*



## *School Session Times Policy*

*Paratol i'r Dyfodol Gwell  
Preparing Every Child for a Better Future*

## **Introduction**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the structure of the school day provides the best possible framework for teaching and learning. Our aim at Tairgwaith Primary School is to allow sufficient time to ensure delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum and collective worship, as well as the necessary time for registration and breaks.

The Changing of School Session Times (Wales) Regulations came into force on 1 April 2009. Section 32 of the Education Act 2002, as amended by the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008, sets out who is responsible for determining the dates of school terms, school holidays and the times of school sessions. For Tairgwaith Primary School, the governing body determines the times of school sessions (with the local education authority determining the dates of the school terms and holidays).

### **Roles and responsibilities of governors**

The **governing body at Tairgwaith Primary School** will ensure that, if changes are being considered to the school day, the headteacher will consult fully with the staff, parents, pupils, and the LA to ensure that:

- a statement is prepared specifying the proposed change and, if required to do so by the LA,
- provide a copy of the statement to all parents and make copies available for inspection at the school
- call a meeting, if requested by parents to discuss the proposed change
- consider any comments made and decide whether to implement the proposed change, with or without any modification
- inform the LA and parents of any change before it takes effect

### **Minimum weekly teaching times**

DfEE Circular 43/90 sets out the following suggested minimum weekly teaching times as a guide for schools:

Foundation Phase **21 hrs**

Key Stage 2 **23 hrs 30mins**

## Teaching Time allocation

<b>Nursery – a.m. (8:50 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.)</b>			
<b>Teaching session</b>	<b>3 hrs 10 mins</b>	<b>X 5 (weekly)</b>	<b>15 hours 50 mins</b>
<b>Registration</b>	<b>10 mins</b>	<b>X 5 (weekly)</b>	<b>50 mins</b>
<b>Playtime</b>	<b>15 mins</b>	<b>X 5 (weekly)</b>	<b>1 hour 30 mins</b>
<b>Total teaching time available</b>		<b>13 hours 45 minutes</b>	

<b>Reception – Year 6 (8:50a.m. - 3:20 p.m.)</b>			
<b>Total length of school day:</b>			
<b>Teaching session a.m.</b>	<b>3 hrs 10 mins</b>	<b>X 5 (weekly)</b>	<b>15 hours 50 mins</b>
<b>Teaching session p.m.</b>	<b>2 hrs 20 mins</b>	<b>X 5 (weekly)</b>	<b>11 hours 40 mins</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5 hours 30 mins</b>	<b>X 5 (weekly)</b>	<b>27 hours 30 mins</b>
<b>Total amount of excluded times as defined in circular 43/90:</b>			
<b>Registration</b>	<b>10 mins X2</b>	<b>X 5 (weekly)</b>	<b>1 hour 40 mins</b>
<b>Playtime</b>	<b>15 mins</b>	<b>X 5 (weekly)</b>	<b>1 hour 15 mins</b>
<b>Assembly</b>	<b>15 mins</b>	<b>X 3 (weekly)</b>	<b>45 mins</b>
	<b>10 mins</b>	<b>X 2 (weekly)</b>	<b>20 mins</b>
			<b>1 hour 5 minutes</b>
<b>Total teaching time available</b>		<b>23 hours 30 minutes</b>	

### **Use of Teaching Time**

The Welsh Office Circular noted the difficulty in attempting to construct a timetable, especially in the primary phase. It stated,

*“...the inter-relationship of curricular experiences makes it difficult to specify exact proportions of time that should be spent on particular curricular activities. Further, the Education Reform Act (1988) prohibits the Secretary of State from specifying time allocations for subjects.”*

Throughout the school children are taught by a concept approach, which centres on the principles and pedagogy of the Curriculum for Wales. There is a heavy focus on the development of the 4 purposes and progression of skills, which are transferred across the areas of learning.