

## **ISSUES**

Will non-teaching staff hours of work be reduced?

As this is a money saving exercise I assume support staff will not have their hours extended to match the pupils. For me it means I will have to arrive after the class has started or leave before lunch time. Just another thing that teachers have to work into their class routines.

There are childcare issues for parents who work. The financial impact on families should not be underestimated. Particularly in a local economy where wages are far below the national average and many already struggle to make family budgets cover costs.

I also wonder whether an 'asymmetric' week is setting the right tone for the pupils themselves. They will not be able to enjoy asymmetric weeks when they move into the real world.

I can't help but see this as yet another example of the tail wagging the dog where education is concerned. Do any of our school's have individual mission statements and business plans? One would imagine that the purpose and prime objective of each school as a business is in the provision of quality education for the pupils who attend, NOT offering a quality working week for teachers and better value for money for the Council.

I am unsure as to how an asymmetric week would impact on some vulnerable children who's parents struggle to get them to school on time for 9am as it stands.

Transport issues for children, some children get to school on the service bus and these times will not fall into the preferred times for schools, how do you get round this? Also children in rural areas will be leaving home very early getting/home late  
How will this affect support staff working hours?

Are support staff going to work the same hours or have their hours changed inline with the changed days or cut !!

Accessing after school childcare - both in terms of availability (ie places) and also the amount of hours available (ie opening and closing times)  
Cost of additional childcare  
Burden of additional childcare around working week  
Paying for childcare on a Friday pm as no family support.

My child may be excessively tired with a longer school day. After school activities, such as swimming lessons/football, may be harder to accommodate, particularly as compounded by the longer day. It would be a shame to cut play/lunch/outdoor time. Can school time be used a little more effectively in December and the end of June? I value that the children are preparing for Christmas concerts etc and doing valuable arts and crafts, but could more classwork be covered during those periods, with less need to lengthen the school day?  
Work may become an issue as I plan to up my hours. A half day would obviously affect this.  
How do we look after our children when the village school closes at lunchtime on a Friday and we work full-time?  
rearranging my Friday work hours

Assuming this is a Friday afternoon I have no issues, and think this is a fantastic idea for the children and parents.  
Also means longer weekends, and you can go away for the weekend without having to take your child out of school on the Friday

Working parents - Working parents will have to find childcare for a Friday afternoon. In an area where childcare places are scarce, this is a real issue.

Nursery provision - how will the Friday half day work with the increase in hours for nursery children? If the nursery teacher is expected to attend all cpd on a Friday afternoon does that mean that nursery children that attend on a Friday afternoon will never have the benefit of a teacher? In addition parents that have children at school are unlikely to bring their child to nursery on a Friday afternoon leading to low attendance on that day.

The school day is already long enough - I appreciate that teachers would benefit from the extra planning but how does this benefit Primary 1 children who are absolutely exhausted?

Reduction in specialist staff - we benefit from specialist teachers. If SBC go the route that Edinburgh have gone then apart from PE teachers, all specialist would be redundant. If this is the case in the SBC proposed model then again, I can't see the benefit for our children.

Why stop at 4.5 days per week? Why not lengthen the 4 days and not bother with the half day?

I have concerns regarding elearning for my child. A computer does not replace the one to one/face to face teaching.

My child is due to start primary 1 in august, where will the teaching standards be in 5 years time say?? How can a computer (elearning) pick up/detect areas of weakness/for development like a teacher can? We already have issues with class sizes at the moment. Surely all our main concern should be to give our children the best education possible. I appreciate there have to be cuts but its our children who will suffer!

Work! For a two working parent family it will mean either negotiations to reduce work hours or cost me additional childcare. Neither of which I see as acceptable.

Length of the school day. Although the hours over the week are not being reduced, having longer days means that by the end of each day the children will be tired and their attention span by the end of the day will be reduced, so they will learn and retain less.

childcare and working hours

Slightly earlier start in the morning as we have quite a long drive already. Other than that, no issues.

child care is a big issue!!!

Child Care

I am a working parent and would have great difficulty finding child care for my children. I find both my children are tired when they return from school I do not believe a longer working day is in my childrens best interest.

My child is in primary school and going by the new times all the children will loss 1hr 40 mins of vital education per wk...

not happy about that at all...why are you thinking about doing this??

as a lone parent already struggling to find employment to fit around the current school hours i feel that this will make it even more of an issue especially on the half day

I have none, having moved here from Edinburgh a few years ago its what we were used to.

none

Finding alternative childcare for the time I would still have to work, being penalised in the work place for yet more possible changes to working hours, and cost effects. Condensing same amount of teaching into 4 1/2 days putting stress and pressure on younger children. Teachers having to do the same amount of teaching in less time, and presumably for less money.

I don't have any issues.

This change will mean a significant increase in child care costs for parents as working parents will require child care on a Friday afternoon. This seems to be mainly an exercise in shifting costs from SBC to parents.

It will result in a longer school day for young primary school children on 4 days per week, when the school day is probably long enough already for younger children.

In the winter months it will mean children being more likely to be going to school and leaving school when it is dark on 4 days per week. This will have safety implications for children.

It will make it more challenging for parents getting children to school on time with an earlier start. This can be particularly challenging when you have more than one child to get to school.

For all these reasons I am opposed to this move.

None as long as pupils are still receiving the same level of education.

I am a single mum who works part time, one of those days is a Friday. There is extremely little child care options where I live, which is in the countryside near Swinton. What do I do with my children? Will there be an after school club provided for those that work? Swinton primary does not have anything like this in place, though I know other schools do. I'm worried in case I have to leave my job.

I am a working mother, started working again when my daughter started school so child care is a problem for me and probably a lot of working mothers who don't have the support of family!!!!

Both myself and my husband work. This will cost us an additional £120 per month in childcare. Politicians should be helping hard working families. Nothing making things more difficult.

More childcare costs for parents! Parents already find it hard enough to cope with all the school holidays and this will mean more expense to parents.

With two working parents, finding childcare and the money to cover it is going to be very very difficult, putting significant strain on an already strained household budget.

I seriously doubt there is capacity in approved childcare providers to handle the load on a Friday afternoon.

The school day is long enough for younger children without extending it, also would they still get a lunch break on a Friday?

I am a working mother; I cannot possibly be free for my children finishing on a Friday lunchtime. This will mean massive guilt for me not being there for my kids on their afternoon off, and real challenges to get childcare for them. Not to mention the already exorbitant costs.

I also feel very concerned about the implications for when my children are secondary school age - when they are facing important exams, I do not see the benefit of a half day. Longer school days on other days do not compensate - they just make tired children who don't concentrate well.

I work on a Friday and so am obviously concerned as to how I will cover Friday afternoon childcare, this has financial implications for me as a single parent. Also concerned as to what will be cut from the school week....what are the implications for my children....what will they miss out on?

We are full time working parents. Therefore, we already rely heavily on the breakfast club and after school club at Chirside Primary. It is therefore imperative that we are given guarantees that this charity can continue its' service

These proposed changes have a massive impact on working parents who already have huge outlays for childcare. Unless alternative arrangements, like after school care, are introduced this again is another change which impacts working parents.

After school child care- there are no facilities for this at St Boswells and the head is against it being run in the school- will there be a move to setting something up? Or breakfast clubs to assist an asymmetric week?

Main issue is around the impact on working hours and the increased costs incurred by those who need to pay for childcare. My child will be starting school and is only 4 years old. The days through the week are very long for small children. Also the difficulties for working parents to have to change hours with employers. That children will miss out on learning opportunities & that it will disadvantage them come exam time.

Friday is the one day of the week that I can leave work early enough to collect her from school at 3.15. She loves that I come

to school to pick her up rather than going to after school club. If school ends at 1.15, I can no longer be there for her, so another trip to after school club and I lose the playground contact with teachers and other parents and feel yet again that I am letting my child down!

I am a single mother who works in the retail industry. I have limited availability to work as it is and now I have one less day if these changes go ahead. I would have to pay for child care which then reduces my income that I struggle to cope with. Really not happy with these changes and extremely annoyed that they seem to be going ahead regardless of consultation. To sum up I would financially be worse off and quite possibly have to reduce my contract or leave my job due to only being able to work 4 days.

Disruption of child week.

Child care.

How to approach changing my working hours to accommodate your proposal.

Continuity of education

My daughter is in primary school. Myself and partner both work and we have no way of changing our hours to be available to look after her on a Friday afternoon. There is a great lack of childcare where we live (West Linton) and I really don't know how we would cope with this - the only solution I can see is for me to give up my job, not a good situation for me to be in and also not good for the economy if lots of parents need to take this course of action.

I work full-time, I either now need to change my hours at work or arrange childcare which is more expensive

Childcare costs - the average family with 2 children would need to find wrap around care for approx. 4.5 hrs per week - 18 hrs per month. The cost to the average family for this will be approx. £45 per week.

Will the SBC or government offer parents on low income/working help with additional costs?

Less break times for children to get exercise.

My children catch a service bus and I'm worried the changes may not fit with this.

While understanding the need for budget cuts this move will have a negative impact on lots of working parents with lack of alternative childcare. Some don't have family around and after school clubs and childminders are already at capacity. Apart from that I am concerned about the other implications for teaching - the information provided is very limited. I do not favour the move.

Main concerns for us as a working family are child care issues following an asymmetrical week. Also, bar financial advantages I'm not sure I see any other benefits for the children in changing their hours. Parents who work have obviously not been considered in this at all and all it is going to mean is a further financial outlay for potential private child care.

Child care issues.

Childcare costs for 3 children when working

Child care. There are only 2 childminders in our village who work on Fridays. The nursery which runs the after school care is full. Also there is a cost implication for paying for child care.

Childcare. I currently work within the school hours as I have a disabled child that I cannot get a childminder for. I would lose my Friday job.

I think it's a proposterous suggestion. It's only goo to affect Working parents. Having to pay a lot more for childcare and living off even less. It's always the people who work who get penalised. This just encourages parents to remain on income support! In my opinion if this does come in to force many mothers with young children will have to cease working because off childcare issues. Free childcare service for the early afternoon would be the only way to avoid this.

My issues are more on the child's benefits an looking at this it makes it far rolling a day .

I might have missed this but do kids still get lunch on a Friday I would hope so. I like the idea it works well in Edinburgh.

Real concern that the children lose out on music, art and PE provision because of the result of this change.

Real concern about transport issues, already some pupils arrive late for school daily who are on a public service/school bus route.

Real concern that due to geographical location there will be no collaboration between schools etc thereby negating the reason for making this change.

Real concern about the provision of education and how standards will be maintain or hopefully increased.

The main issue for myself and my family is childcare on a Friday afternoon. I currently work around a full day on a Friday and if my son was to finish earlier I would have to either drop hours at work or fork out more for childcare and with an already very tight budget I dont think we could afford this.

Also my son is in a routine, he can find it difficult to adjust to changes

Primarily childcare on a Friday afternoon as I work. If I have to find a childminder, or use after school club, this is going to incur a cost for myself.

I feel my children would benefit from continuing doing the current structure of the school week and I would worry that their educational needs will not be met moving to an asymmetric week. Instead of doing this have the Scottish Borders council not thought about closing several of the very small schools scattered around the region such as Fountainhall Primary School? It is appalling that cuts are being made elsewhere before this is carried out.

Childcare issues. Eg will after school run for all of Friday afternoon?

The issues for probably most parents is childcare on Fridays when the schools close for pupils at lunch time. It will now mean that I will have to arrange and pay for childcare for two hours every Friday. Although this may not seem a lot of money for some people I have two children of primary school age so that, in fact, means four hours childcare to be paid for. Either that or I will have to reduce my working hours which in turn will mean a reduction in my earnings. So either way I am going to be worse off financially. Is SBC going to reimburse parents who are going to be financially worse off due to the change in school hours.

Will school transport be available at the times?

Change to childcare arrangements required to cover the new gap

Childcare on Friday afternoons until 3pm. Lots of working parents have taken jobs based around the current school day. Also would interfere with a number of afterschool activities as there would not be enough time to get to them with school finishing later. I would also be concerned about the impact the longer day has on younger children and then they would still have homework to do - homework is rarely given over a weekend

Arranging with my employer yet another change to my work pattern.

The lack of consideration for children of working parents when many parents work in Edinburgh and are not available to pick up children at the earlier time.

None of the considerations seem to be about improving education

Concern that children will receive a poorer quality of education due to reduction in teaching time.

Seven 50 minute lessons in one day is too much for kids, they will not learn anything at the end of the day. There is no real explanation as to why this will improve teaching (aside from the whisy washy statements such as 'increase the number of courses offered on a shared basis - what does that mean - French in Galashiels one day then Hawick the next?). Will there be some sort of monitoring as to how many lessons teachers miss now, and then after the changes are introduced. Parents will have to find extra childcare if they work on the half day (which I expect will be a Friday so the teachers can slope off early).

Child care for a Friday afternoon.

I live in Peebles and work until 3 pm every day. My work has a high portion of working women they will not support me changing my hours. I have nowhere to send my children on a Friday. There are approx 900 children under 12 In Peebles there is no infrastructure in place for these children to go to. How many children will go home to empty houses?

Child care availability/cost.

Picking my child up from primary school at 1:15pm on fri.

As both parents in this family work full time, we will have no option but to place our daughter into extended child care on a Friday. This would be approx 5 hours. We are lucky in that the financial cost will not be a burden, but I worry about the effects of children whose ages will range from 4 and upwards spending so much time 'in care'. The facilities available currently are great for a couple of hours but what will the council do to ensure this 'free' time for teachers does not have a negative effect on the hundreds of children who will be forced into play groups while their parents work?

Childcare on the afternoon of the shorter day. I might have to pay for someone to look after my child as they will no longer be in school.

Arranging, managing and affording Childcare on the half day.

Firstly, I am not sure how savings can be made if as you say teachers salaries are the main expense and IF kids are in school the same number of hours per week and the Friday afternoon will be used for training/consultation/ collaboration. Surely underpinning this there will be loss of man hours and think you're being disingenuous by skirting over these. They need to be spelled out so parents can make an informed comment.

Also, simply don't believe that there is consensus among every primary and secondary head about this. Where's the independent thought?! Our daughter 's young, finds school tiring already , 4 long days will only aggravate this . Whilst school is obviously very important, it is not the only aspect of the child's life, there are extracurricular activities etc which we juggle to fit in and are of great importance and give great pleasure to the kids. Many of these, often difficult to arrange , activities will be affected.

Also some of us work either FT or PT and have carefully thought out child are plans in place, these too will be scuppered to some extent.

Our child's wellbeing will be negatively impacted by this proposal;

Our child's educational attainment, over time, will be negatively impacted by this proposal;

Our family's economic circumstances, and therefore our child's wellbeing will be negatively affected by this proposal;

The economic competitiveness of the Scottish Borders and our child's future wellbeing will be negatively affected by this proposal.



This new proposal will leave us with childcare issues on Friday afternoons. With a child heading into p1 in 2014 with a 1 year old sibling, and both parents working full time, and no family to support, we will already have complicated child care and this reduction in hours on a Friday will increase these issues.

None-like the idea.

My sons school already begins at 8.45...until 3.15...you cannot seriously expect him to begin any earlier...so he would be in school with the extra time until 3.35...with time to travel from home it would effectively mean my son would travel to and from school in the dark in winter...how can you possibly expect a young child who lives in the country to cope with this...it may only be an extra 20 minutes each day...but that is an extremely long day plus homework when he eventually gets home....my other issue is childcare for the shorter week...I work full time and there are no childminders with spaces or clubs for him to go to....this is completely unacceptable in such rural areas

afternoon in order to look after the children. Preschool runs afternoons or mornings with a very good wraparound facility - how will afternoon sessions run if the schools are closed Friday afternoons. This is purely a cost cutting measure which as usual effect those of us trying to work to support our children. I fail to see how teaching can not be effected. The only way you will be able to cut the staff is to increase ratios which I have concerns with given that the quality of teaching at my local primary is already questionable. This is not for the benefits of the pupils - this is purely for the benefits of the teachers and the local council. It is another example of how we are putting the needs of finances above the needs of pupils. Although Edinburgh has been operating in this way for a number of years - it can not be compared to the borders. Edinburgh is large city with good transport links and plenty of alternative childcare options. Here in the rural areas we do not have this option. There is already limited availability and this will make it even worse.

As a working parent, I'm suddenly facing having to pay for extra childcare. I'm also concerned that given short days on Friday that children's learning will suffer under the issue that given the shorter hours on Friday teachers will be less likely to engage in anything significant and these short hours are not effectively used. I find it hard to believe that a solid 2 hour block on Friday can be parcelled up into 15 minutes here and 15 minutes there each day and the quality of learning of that original 2 hour time block is maintained.

A free afternoon this will mean an increase in the costs of child minding and will impact household finances.

That the motivation for doing this is financial- not driven by what's best for pupils

Earlier bus times for children to arrive for earlier start

Nursery and school co-ordinating finishing times

A ridiculous proposal. I work for the nhs. We face budget challenges. Do we stop nursing for one afternoon a week to save money? How does this actually save money and what do I do with my children when all the teachers go home early on a Friday and I still have to work the same number of hours as I always do

Starting & Finishing times and how they will work within our school - St Ronan's Primary School, Innerleithen.

That specialist teachers in P.E., art & music will no longer feature in our children's educations. Whilst all primary teachers have some training in these areas they are generally not able to devote the specialist knowledge and experience that these teachers can add to the curriculum.

Monday to Thursday days too long esp for younger children. Think days are long enough as they are. Teaching resources seem to be poor enough this can surely only make it worse....how does this reduce the teaching staff? Why would the ratio change ? Child care. As a single parent working 5days a week I will be expected to find and pay extra for child care on the Half day!

After school care to allow working parents to work, and not have to pay for additional child care.

A major potential issue would be the missed school hours on a Friday morning as I suspect many more children are absent from school on a Friday morning than any other day of the week. I would like to see a comparison of absentee rate prior to and after introduction of 4.5 day/ assymetric school week, and this absentee rate split by day of the week.

Working parents will need to pay for extra child care or work less. For those on low income this might result in extra cost to the government to support the childcare or reduced income.

Primary age children will find it difficult to adapt to the change during the week and timing is easier to explain if it is on the hour or a simple segment of the hour.

I do not see that any of your pro arguments are valid. The plan to increase teaching hours - by still working Friday pm in addition to longer days - seems to be an increase in cost. All other 'benefits' are not directly related to the school schedule and could be done with competent management.

I am a working mum and work EVERY Friday, this will cost me a fortune in child care!

Who pays for and provides help finding childcare for my children for the Friday afternoon?

As a single working parent, the child care issues will be a concern for me I work part time and Friday is one of my days to work, and due to the office arrangements I cannot change this

Potential difficulties with childcare arrangements / increased costs of childcare.

Concern for young pupils as to impact of squeezing in additional hours into the other days to compensate. My children are already exhausted at the end of a school day and adding an additional 30 mins or so could be tiring for them and mean they do not get the benefit of this time.

Child care; How will this affect my childrens' learning; Start and Finish time;

My main issue is the extra childcare costs I will need to find every month.

Childcare! What do families do when both parents work full time? No doubt SBC will be expecting we find and fund 'after school care' ourselves. This basically shifts any saving SBC makes into an added cost for working parents.

The longer school day making children more tired and when they are tired they do not learn as much. Also a lot of after school activities which are enjoyed will have to be cancelled

friday afternoon child care and costs. I currently work full time in edinburgh and can't afford to pay extra for child care. I chose to come back to Borders to send my child to school due to the 5 day week.

Both my husband and I work and a half day on a Friday would be an issue for us with regards to childcare for our two children. I also believe that the school day is long enough and don't believe that a longer school day Mon - Thurs would be beneficial for our children.

No issues for me. I like the proposal

Issues with childcare on a Friday afternoon. At the moment my employers have been good enough for me to adjust my hours to fit with school hours but this will have serious implications for both myself and my husband and my employers. It may not be possible for me to reduce my hours on a Friday which would then mean that I would have to give up work. It would not be cost effective for me to pay for childcare which is also difficult to find for a 10 year old child.

Quality of the education that children will receive. It's currently of a sub-standard nature with poor levels of support being afforded with poor leadership from the headteacher.

The CFE is a joke and no evidence has been provided to suggest that moving to an asymmetric week would in any way improve the delivery of that.

I would be delighted to move to an asymmetric week.

I will need childcare for Friday as I work.

Will the Out of School club accept childcare vouchers by way of payment (like other nurseries) as at the moment I don't believe they do (Kidzcare - Stirches and Wilton, Hawick)

- 1) the knock on effect that reduced school hours will have on our household bills due to the inevitable increase cost in child care for families
- 2) the impact that reduced teacher numbers will have on quality of service and student support whilst increasing independent student learning during a period where the National Curriculum is in transition from standard grade to Nats, etc.

There are various issues. 1 How does the change in hours actually save money, aren't teachers still working the same hours.

2. How does SBC propose to cover the extra two hours of childcare needed for the Friday. 3. Have SBC thought through the impact on after school activities that children do after school. If the new timetable reduces activities for children after school then are we not setting a pattern of reduced physical exercise and social enterprise for our future generations.

Childcare

There will be additional problems if secondary move to 4.5 days but primary do not

The early finish on a Friday will cause huge problems for childcare as my husband & I both work full time. There will be a huge demand for after school clubs for which I doubt there will be enough places available. Is the Council proposing to introduce more after school care? There is also the obvious extra cost for this childcare which on already tight household budgets will be hard to find.

The later finish of 3.25 will clash with a lot of existing after school activities eg swimming classes.

Children spend less time in school. CfE stated that one aim is to prepare children for life. A asymmetric week, I am sad to say, is not part of the real World.

As far as I am aware, Primary children do not have study periods. Therefore, to protect the teaching time, as you have stated, you must increase the length of the other days. This is too much for younger children. All the quality peer-reviewed research states this.

Transport companies are tacitly implying that it will not be commercially viable for them. You will encounter this problem closer to the time, and may find SBC being "held to ransom" with price rises. It's clear you will go ahead with this, regardless of public opinion. So, you should be seeking a price guarantee from these companies, or you may be in for a shock.

Although it will not impact myself, as I work from home, it will have a devastating financial impact on many households. It could potentially reduce some Parents' abilities to work on a Friday.

It is desperately disappointing - and actually quite shocking - to see your out-going Director of Education imply that having less teachers in school is a benefit. I quote: "...and potentially in future with fewer teachers. However, there are a number of other benefits to the change." That is

Mike Russell has stated that there needs to be a large reduction in bureaucracy with regard to the implementation of CfE. The statement that a w

Because I work evenings, it will mean even less time spent with my children. I understand that the council have to cut costs but does this really have to be at the expense of our childrens education.

I have no issues - As a full time working mother and husband we feel this would be great for kids.

childcare on a Friday. Current provision in west linton is already oversubscribed with no access even to a waiting list. Moving to an asymmetric week will mean I am not able to continue my current working arrangements and will need to give up hours

As a single working parent, I am extremely concerned how I would manage to source and finance additional childcare to cover an extra afternoon 1 week. I commute to work (as many people may do in the borders) and already pay for childcare costs and am very concerned about affordability if these costs were to rise. I think this proposal if implemented is likely to impact significantly on working parents on low incomes who cannot afford additional childcare costs, especially given real term cuts in many peoples salaries over recent years.

Childcare issues as already fit work around current school hours. one child has disability so requires specialist childcare out of school

As the parent of a young child I have concerns about the lengthening of the school day - mon-thur.

I have relatives in Midlothian with young children who also complain bitterly about the level of activity on a Friday morning, the quality of teaching in this half day would therefore concern me.

My son attends a primary with a start time of 8.30. If the asymmetric week would result in an earlier start time and a longer school day this could result in overtired pupils particularly where his start time is already half an hour earlier than normal.

This will make even more difficult for working Parents who rely on childcare

I have children in the lower primary and feel that this would make it a long week for them.

potential reduction in extracurricular activities for high school children due to reduced lunch times, same in primary schools.

What would lunchtimes look like in schools?

Will teachers still have as many inservice days, and would these be on the short days?

Which day will be the short one?

Where will money be saved considering the proposed scale of education cuts?

Do we get to keep specialist teachers eg art, music?

Are you consulting with the third sector and private tuition teachers, sports clubs, swimming teachers (Council and private) and childminders etc?

Is August 2014 a realistic timescale for this amount of change?

ability of young children to 'hold' concentration at end of school day is reduced, meaning they will learn less on longer afternoons that they may have done on full (Friday) afternoon

increase in costs of child care if school 1/2 day off is on day parents both work;

Loss of services provided by other third parties as a result of timetable change, eg BSLT swimming lessons may change times and so become unpractical and also other after school activities such as cubs/music lessons etc;

what happens to school meals on half day?;

suggested timetable shows school starting at 8.50, not 8.45, this has knock on impact on parents ability to get to work;

Educationally unsound since it is accepted that effective teaching is key to successful learning and thus to cut teacher numbers through the introduction of a 4.5 day week is morally wrong

Increased childcare costs for working families

Shorter working week would lead to staff reductions and thus associated difficulties delivery of CfE

Pupils over tired & less effective learners due to earlier start

Pupils over tired & less effective due to longer days

Pupils less effective learners as too much teaching concentrated/shoe horned into 4.5 days = pace is more manageable over 5 full days

Pupils vulnerable due to even darker morning commutes

Cannot see many problems. School transport would be the issue... During winter weather & dark nights children being dropped off in the dark.

I don't object to the longer days although my son might but having a half day on a Friday May cause problems as both myself and my husband work

Child care and finances to pay for it as both parents are working.

Lack of child care on the Friday

Your proposal will significantly affect my working life and increase my childcare costs.

My main issue has always been that my daughter attends a school in Edinburgh ( she lives with her mum) and my son goes to a school in the borders. We often have different holidays from the rest of the schools in Scotland but a big thing for us is that she gets a half day on a fri and if we are going away camping etc for a long weekend we can't leave until late afternoon hitting traffic. I just wish all schools would synchronise school hrs and holidays and then you wouldn't have to consider taking children out of school for hols.

no major issues in terms of the children assuming children still get the same amount of classroom time in the week and decent length break time.

Issues for after school childcare on a Friday if it is required.

An asymmetric week does not fit in to my established work life. It would result in me having to find additional child care at an added cost. It will be impossible for me to pick my children up on the shorter day and will result in them having to either use a child minder or after school club ( of which the place numbers are extremely limited). I would prefer that my child was in a school environment where they were getting structured learning then in another form of child care.

Childcare places in Duns for primary and younger High School pupils for those parents who work. I work in Jedburgh on a Friday and I will not be able to get back to Duns for 1.15pm.

Longer day for children and childcare issues for shorter Friday.

School day will be too long and concentration will be difficult after a certain point. Also it will cost my family extra money from somewhere to pay for a childminder to pick him up after school on a Friday.

Concerns over reduction in quality teaching hours, by an extra 10 minutes in the morning and an extra 10 minutes at night doesn't give the same quality or content as a 2hr Friday afternoon teaching session

Fortunately as a self employed person I will be able to contend with childcare issues for an early Friday finish. Many other parents will not and will face increased childcare costs or having to take regular time off work. At a time when parents are already stretched and single mothers are being hounded back to work under threat of losing benefits a move to an asymmetric week shows little empathy.

Significant increase in childcare costs and after school activity costs as I am a working parent and need to find Friday afternoon activities and care for my children.

I believe this will be detrimental to children's learning as there is bound to be less effective teaching time

How will pre-school half day sessions work on a Friday?

Childcare for working parents. Not all schools have afterschool clubs, not all parents can afford private childcare.



Childcare on a Friday afternoon.

The main concern is that this makes matters increasingly difficult for working parents. So many people are having to work full time, this will mean that people are either having to take a pay cut - if they can negotiate a reduction in working hours, or spend more money in providing after school care for the day ending after lunchtime. There are already so many difficulties working parents face in terms of having to cover long holidays and frequent breaks for half terms - we do not have enough annual leave days to cover these holidays and are often having to spend money seeking alternative childcare arrangements over the summer / school breaks. This just increases the burden.

Additional child care cost.

How to manage children and work.

Why does £11million have to be cut from education. Kids should have more education NOT less

I work full time and cannot change my hours because of the number of people that already have an agreed Friday off because of their children being in Edinburgh Schools.

Who is going to provide out of school facilities for children with working parents? The current after school club is already at capacity.

I am going to have to pay for childcare to cover the Friday reduction in hours.

The impact on other after school activities already in existence.

The proposal do not take in to account parents who work full time and have no provision to account for schools 'child free Friday afternoons'!! No teachers I know agree this would be a good thing - it would disrupt the balance of a schools working week too much. Finally there does not appear to be much reference to the effect on the children - changing routines for budget saving purposes not for whats best for the children.

Having to arrange and pay for child care or try to change hours of work.

Would mean having to cut my working hours, to finish early on a Friday or arrange & pay for childcare.

Childcare for working parents on a Friday afternoon when children leave school earlier. Finding childcare is an issue and the cost of childcare is too expensive.

Childcare, my husband and I works shifts and have no other family/friends to help with a Friday afternoon. We receive no benefits and really could not afford child care to cover a Friday afternoon, this would cause financial hardship and is a very big worry to us. We moved from Edinburgh to the Borders to try and alleviate the Friday afternoon schooling issue.

Unsure if my child with Down Syndrome would be able to cope with longer days and I would need to arrange child care for the shorter day as I work to suit school hours and may be unable to change my current hours to suit.

NONE

In order to save money the council's propose measure will push working parents to increase their childcare expenses to cover for the half day. Also danger of unhappy teachers who've seen their salaries reduced. Concern that the Friday will be seen as a part-time day and not enough learning achieved.

Much too long a day for pupils, particularly junior primary who already are tired at the end of a school day.

I think the impact of longer days would have a disproportionate impact on those who have to travel more than ten miles or by bus to school. Will the primary children be given lunch on a Friday

This would result in highly negative changes and costs in childcare, ramifications on extra-curricular activities and general unnecessary changes in routine.

Child care

Childcare issues

Issues with older children "handing" about towns

Given that the proposed move to an asymmetric week for primary schools will not provide any savings to SBC, it appears to solely derive from the administrative benefits that SBC hope to make but requires parents to find childcare for the entirety of Friday afternoon. Surely the point of administration is to enable things to happen rather than be the driver for what happens.

My issue is that the school day will be too long for children and I would also have childcare issues. Extra care after the early finish as I can't finish my work clearly to collect them.

Childcare for the Friday afternoon. Will school lunches still be available on a Friday?

Children need 5 academic days. Ten minutes added on to the start & end of the day is not an acceptable alternative. The day is long enough for kids without extending these hours. This will also reduce my income by £2,000 a year. This is money I don't have to spare. Priorsford school is bursting at the seams. Class sizes are at maximum level. We need more staff if anything not cutbacks.

I envisage many problems for parents who work a 'normal week' not asymmetric week. There will be an increased demand on an already very limited number of child minded places. I also think there will be a transport issue getting the children to and from school. We have been historically told that the buses are unable to drop off at an alternative time when previous time changes have been proposed. How exactly is the saving being made in teaching staff if the teachers are still working on a Friday afternoon? I would be dismayed if specialist staff were cut from Primary Schools and believe this would ultimately lead to a poorer education for the children.

I am afraid that we are giving our children a false view of real life - will they leave school believing that they should finish their jobs at lunchtime on a Friday?

Would the Friday afternoon count as non pupil contact time? i.e Meaning they children have the same teacher all of the time.

I assume there would be no lunch time on a Friday?

Not great for parents working full time.

Would the children be able to cope with longer days?

How does this change save Â£11m?

A lack of childcare facilities within West Linton and an inability to pay for any extra childcare costs.

My children are already out from the home at 7.30/8am on week days and are tired. Considering that Primaries One and Two in the Scottish Borders Council already have a much longer day than some of their counterparts I am surprised that the Council has not considered the Health and Well Being of the children and how even an extra 35 minutes to their day will make them feel.

Provision of after school care is difficult in rural areas already, and for working parents this poses a problem of what to do with our children on the None

Mainly child care needs on a Friday afternoon. Thankfully as a full time working family we have employers who are flexible on start/finish times so the school day will be too long for most kids and a lot of people will have extra costs involved as a lot of parents work all day on a Friday and can't

Possible reduction in quality of teaching.  
Reduced morale amongst Teachers impacting Pupils

While not against an asymmetric week, I have concerns that with the increase in nursery hours, it will cause problems for parents with more than My main issue: You are wasting more tax payers money in the long term. Cutting teachers salaries by reducing their hours is absurd, you will only end up paying more for over time to fulfill the needs.

Teachers as are most civil employees over paid and under worked.  
try reducing their salaries to save money, NOT reducing childrens education.

SHAME ON YOU

I think it is a great idea, although possibly child care issues could arise.

Ensuring transport to and from school for the appropriate times

I am concerned that the decision will not be made with plenty of time for parents to organise alternative childcare etc. if needed.

As with most full time working parents, an increase in 30 minutes to 3.15pm Mon - Thurs does not really make any significant difference, as we have childcare in place post school anyway, however cutting the day on a Friday has major implications in terms of either parents having to change or cut their working hours to accommodate this, or financially having to pay increased childcare costs. There are also implications for staff of our local Out of School Club, where again their working pattern will also be significantly be affected. If staff at the Out of School Club could not be available for these Friday hours, then there would be no childcare provider, which again then brings the problem back to the parents' door.

None.

Child care on a Friday afternoon for two children will be a real difficulty and we cannot afford this. We will also have logistical problems if school starts earlier.

I will have to change my hours at work to suit the new school hours. Parents are already discriminated against because of the long school holidays and in-service days, strikes etc that we need to try to accommodate. More importantly, a child starting primary 1 at the age of 4 and a half is so stressful and tiring for them anyway and to make them stay for another 20 minutes is cruel. My children are 6 & 8 and they are tired when they come home and then they are faced with homework. It seems silly to start school at 8.50am instead of 9.00am and for the reason to give teachers more time for training on a Friday is awful considering the days they already have for in-service training.

I don't have issues I only want the same or higher standard of teaching for my child and as this is not going to affect this, then none

I think this is a fantastic idea and fully support this proposal.

The majority of parents work full time. Those working part time already have to adjust their hours to look after children. Whether working full or part time, many parents already need to pay for childcare. Allowing children to leave school at 1:15pm on a Friday will leave the vast majority of parents needing to pay for extra childcare. In a time of cuts, austerity, a reduction in childcare allowance and an increase in tax on average earners, it is utterly ridiculous that Scottish Borders Council should even consider increasing costs on already overburdened families. This scheme is unthinkable unless Scottish Borders Council provide completely free childcare every Friday of the proposed asymmetric week.

well my daughter has adhd this will effect her rappidly , if there is less teachers this may mean less support , all young children will suffer dew to routine change as when this does change and its understood that it aint working and u change it back to the way it was then the child will have to change again , this wil also affect working parents as so familys will have to suffer as parents cant afford extra childcare there for parents wil have to work less, employemnt is difficult in the scottish borders dew to rural location and so is childminding

none

This move would obviously have childcare costs and availability of such childcare could prove to be extremely difficult. As an individual with no close family members in this area I would find this very challenging.

Work full time my kids are in primary and currently go to after school club. This will cost us more and after school care are saying they won't be able to take kids due to numbers and pre school kids

Possible issues regarding childcare. I hope that the level/standard of teaching is not affected and my child's education does not suffer.

I am concerned that the school days for my 5- year old son will be very long as a result of the asymmetric week, even though he will have a shorter day one day a week. There is a lot to take in during one day at school and a longer day will make him more tired and perhaps lose concentration and he might feel that he cannot take all the information in.

pre school nursery being in line with the asymmetric school times.

e.g if child in primary and one at pre-school (afternoons etc) will they finish at the same time or will there be a gap?

What happens on a Friday, if the school finished at lunchtime what happens with pre-school if in the afternoon

would breakfast clubs provided by the schools be earlier if the school starts earlier, e.g if school @ 9, breakfast club 08:15, if new times would be 08:50 would breakfast club still be 8:15

Child care for a Friday, policy does not take any consideration of working parents who will now either have to cut hours or pay even more for child care on a Friday afternoon.

Increase to childcare costs due to both parents working full time with no option of flexi time

no issues, fully in favour of this move

childcare, this will more than double my childcare costs as i only pay for childcare after school on a Friday.

Don't have many issues as am lucky enough to have every Friday as a day off otherwise childcare costs would have increased.

None

Parents work around the school week so it would not be practical to move away from that as it would be very difficult for working parents to make alternative arrangements

This is working against the government plan to help working families by increasing nursery hours as of August 2014

Some secondary school pupils will congregate after school and there will more opportunity for smoking, drinking, drug taking

Reducing teachers will compromise class learning e.g. if classroom assistants are reduced, how will the class teacher cope with the pupils that need more attention without compromising the rest of the class?

You have already trialled this in Berwickshire and it didn't work - what's changed?

It might be beneficial for councils to cut their costs but for working parents it will mean additional childcare costs to cover the Friday afternoon.

My partner and I work full-time and our child is in P1. Changing our hours at work to be at home for an earlier finish may not be an option for us. I have recently applied to reduce my hours at work through flexible working and was refused.

If we cannot change our working hours to accommodate the schools hours, we would have to arrange childcare. We do not qualify for tax credits and paying for childcare every month is going to be very difficult for us on an already overstretched budget.

Further to this, if we have no option but to pay for childcare, ideally we would be looking to put our child into the after school club attached to the school. But, if other parents find themselves in the same situation and need to use this too, will there be enough spaces and if not will SBC be creating extra childcare provision?

Disruption to the working week of parents, forcing reduced working hours or additional child-care.

The issues for me are an increase in childcare costs or a reduction to my working hours, both of which would hit me financially and I'm sure all other working families are in a similar position. At the moment the school my daughter attends is perfectly set up with start and finish times and an Out of School Club which means I can work almost a full week and still have my daughter home in the late afternoon with plenty of quality time for homework, play, dinner, bath and bed. I know most of the working parents at this school would agree with me too. The change to an asymmetric week would completely upset this and I could not continue to work as I have been without suffering financially. I would also need to change my work pattern, meaning I would have to work later four days a week which would also make my daughters day longer. Also the change would affect the running and possibly the viability of Out of School Clubs which are absolutely essential in allowing parents to work and also have many implications for the Staff. It will especially impact rural schools where many children have a longer day anyway with their journey to school.

Perhaps it hasn't been noticed but the majority of parents work...a novelty I know but in a region which is lacking childminders and has a lower than average household income are the children meant to wonder the streets till parents finish work???? I would love to reduce my hours at work but like so many NHS staff in the region just now my pay is protected due to reorganisation and if I change anything I lose substantial amounts of money. I waited 6 months to get my daughter a place in a nursery before returning to work and foresee problems increasing her hours when I'm going to be against many other parents trying to do the same (not that I could afford to pay for extra child care)  
Child care

With two of my three children already having huge disruption to their classes at Eyemouth primary. One has had multiple teachers since August in primary 5 and to be honest has had a wasted year! My other daughter in her final primary year is now having the disruption of having one teacher 2 days and another 3 days. Eyemouth primary needs help to move forward and losing more teachers when they already are struggling is very worrying.

I wont be able to work on a Friday as wont have child care for 2 children.

These proposals are designed by teachers for teachers, and benefits nobody else but teachers. What about working parents?

These proposals mean extra after school club costs for 2 children, so once again working parents are hit hard in the pocket. Their are easier solutions, like merging smaller schools with bigger ones, where there is capacity to do this. This would mean teaching numbers could be reduced, the amount of principle teachers could be reduced.

Against the move to asymmetric week. My child would struggle with longer days as a result her education would suffer.

PLEASE DO NOT DO THIS TO CHILDREN WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES! It's not fair on them they already find school hard as it is!

My partner and I both work which would mean finding (which will be difficult enough) and paying childcare fees to cover this .

My current childcare provider is also a nursery provider so doubt they have staffing to cover both for afternoon nursery class plus pick up and look after out of school children.

This is not fair to hard working parents and certainly not enough notice if this is to happen in august.

From a childs point of view for the very youngest children even an extra 20 minutes a day is too much, it is an extremely long day for my 5 year old as it is.

my son will be starting howdenburn ante-pre-school in august. at this school the anti-preschool sessions are in the afternoon, so how will this affect him

INCREASED CHILDCARE COSTS

No clear route to reducing costs:

I do not see how a move to an asymmetric week will lead to a reduction in the education budget. This is not clear from the proposal which gives a vague "may lead to potential reductions" statement. I cannot support such a move based on weak assumptions.

Difficulties for working parents:

The main disruption to support a half day on Fridays will fall upon working parents who will have to find another means of childcare during Friday afternoons or reduce their hours and income.

Conflicting priorities for Education support:

I understand that there is a move to increase pre-school childcare, and also to reduce support staff within schools. This takes money and resources away from schools and adds them to an area which is already generously supported. To say that extra pre-school childcare is benefiting working parents is nonsense when a consequence of that extra childcare is a disrupted working week on Fridays.

It's not fair on parents who would need to pay for extra child care!

Fail to see how this change could possibly save money. School day will be too long for children. Extra costs for parents who have to work.

The children have a long enough day, adding time will not help with learning, they will not be at their best due to fatigue. If the children finish early on a Friday will the council be reimbursing the parents that do not qualify for government funding for the cost of child care for the 2 hours that they still have to work.

Childcare costs will rise

I think this would be a good move, however would need enough notice to try and alter my hrs at work as work full-time over 4 days at present.

None. Think it's a great idea for both staff and children.

The move will significantly impact on my childcare requirements due to working commitments. If school closes at lunchtime on Friday my children will need to be in childcare for significantly more hours and increased cost to myself and detriment to children. Also the longer day on other days will impact on their ability to attend after school activities such as sports/music as at present they participate in activities from three thirty

Childcare on the Friday afternoon

My daughter will be starting primary one after the summer, is it not a very long day for a 4 year old?? Also what are parents who work to do on a Friday? Have to pay more money in child care to cover the costs or not work at all? Will these silly hours stop so many in service days from being had every month??

Primary pupils currently get 25 hours teaching a week, 5 hours a day. If the times change as proposed it seems that the pupils will only get 20 mins extra per day rather than 30 which would make up the extra hours. I was under the assumption that primary pupils would still get 25 hours teaching, as primary schools were changing only to keep in line with secondary to save money for school bus costs.

If the teacher use Friday afternoon for planning, marking etc will they be working longer hours?

No particular issues however I would request a commitment of no further changes to teaching hours in the medium-term.



Where are all these children meant to go. Most parents (me included) have made child and work arrangements based on the Monday to Friday routine that is in place. Where does sbc suggest we put our children when they have previously been at school.

no issues, fully support this change

As a working, single parent of two, finding childcare and being able to afford childcare would be an issue if the proposed asymmetric week goes through.

1. SBC is shifting the financial responsibility from LA to parents (i.e. increasing child care costs)

2. Increasing mon-thurs hours for primary pupils may be detrimental to their learning by finishing later than present.

Childcare ...as a parent who works 2 days a week one of them being a Friday. In a small village there is a short supply of childminders and no after school clubs. If we change to an asymmetric week I have little option for childcare and if I do find some then I am financially penalised.

My children get the school bus home which doesn't arrive until approx 45mins after the school day finishes. This means that under the new proposals they will not get home until 2pm on a Friday having left home around 8.30am. I assume there will be no school lunches on a Friday so they will be away from home for 5.5 hours without a meal. They are at primary school and children of that age can't go for that long without a meal. There must be regulations as to how long a child can be at school/travelling to and from school without meals being provided.

With current school timings my 7 year old is picked up at 8.20 am (this would become 8.10 am with proposed change) and gets home from school at 3.40 pm (this would become 4.05 pm.) This makes my 7 year old endure 4 X EIGHT hour days and one FIVE AND A HALF hour day. This is unacceptable and in no way facilitates effective learning.

childcare...what exactly am I meant to do with my child while I am working...their are no after school clubs in my area...

I would struggle for childcare for my son who is in Primary 1, as I also work in education and do not get a Friday afternoon off, if I did find someone to look after him I then have extra childcare cost as I have an 8 month old who I pay for at a child-minder and don't receive any help with these costs either

As a council non-teaching employee with primary school aged children, working in a secondary school, being allowed to change my hours to finish at the same time as the children on the short day. Concern that subjects such as art, music and specialist PE will be lost in primary schools.

I am a EI Nursery Nurse, job share 2 days, i would not be part of the fri and not able to have any prep time before or after my days due to increase of hours to the day.

As a parent i would be concerned about having to provide child care for the fri afternoon.

I work in sbc nursery and have my own children in nursery and primary. The Friday hours of 8.50am-1.15pm would cause problems for me and many other parents who then need to find childcare from 1.15-4pm, I also work in a private nursery and unfortunately spaces are not available for these times and would cost parents a whole day fee. Also how would the likes of me be able to get my child to a childcarer if I am not able to leave work to drop off the children and the childminder will already have made a drop off at school for afternoon session nursery at the earlier time of 12.30 or 12.45. It is unpractical and non profitable for a childminder to then return to school at 1.15 to collect possible 1 or 2 children. Most of my children's after school activities are also from 3.30 and spaces for groups are not always easy to change therefore my children will have less out of school activities due to lack of spaces.

Quite simply the fact that I have a job and would have to take a half day to be available when my child left school early.

And the chances of that happening are zero.

The additional childcare costs - both parents working

The length of the lunch time and the schools ability to feed everyone in a shortened time. My children already sometimes skip lunch because of the queues in the canteen.

I would prefer it better than the stupid change you recently made where pupils finish later 3 days then earlier 2 days. I'd like to add that for working parents continually changing what you do is a nightmare when working out childcare so if you do change I hope it is permanent.

That this is simply a paper exercise because SBC have already made up their mind and don't care what people think.

I have no issues, I think this is a great proposition.

Possible child care issues, however as work part time with flexible employer this should not pose too much of an issue

Childcare for when the school closes earlier

none

The school day is getting shorter and shorter, in the 1980s we started at 9-4:15pm 8 40 minute periods.

There is an issue over lunches on Fridays, does the 13:15 finish include a lunch break? When will the buses come?

Child care on a Friday afternoon! Who is going to pay for that!

Although the school day is only slightly longer to make up the lost time, I presume break times will be shorter. This will have a big impact on lunchtime clubs and activities and also will it allow the children to learn effectively without the release and refreshment a break allows.

I could lose my job as I am a teacher.

One of my children has ASN, and finding childcare is difficult.

Less teachers more workload?

There are not enough childcare facilities in the borders to look after these children on a Friday afternoon. I have a son with significant additional needs and I am a teacher working full time. What am I supposed to do ???

Child care on a Friday afternoon for working families. There is fairly poor provision across the region as it is, especially in more rural locations. If school closes at 1.15pm on a Friday, then there have to be incentives for new after school clubs, childminders etc to fill the gap. This would be especially important for low income families who may find covering those few hours quite challenging.

Child care on half day. Not insurmountable, but another favour from my mum!!

No issues at all

In Primary - Long day for early primary pupils. Childcare requirements on a Friday afternoon for working parents is added expense.

In Secondary - single periods of 50 minutes are very limiting in practical subjects such as PE and HE.

I am a school teacher, however I also have a child who requires care while I am in school. If we are always free on the Friday afternoon, I have no issue. If we are to use the Friday afternoon for meetings/ curriculum development etc Then obviously I have a Huge childcare issue as I can barely afford the childcare as it is.

Main concern as a parent is organising extra childcare for my 2 children (primary age)

Main concern as a primary teacher is how my 0.6 post will be timetabled to ensure I also attend training and cpd time, without working 'extra' hours.

I have a child in P1, I think the longer days will make children more tired, will be harder to get them to concentrate on their homework when they come home from school.

As a teacher, if younger children are getting tired with the longer hours it will be more difficult to keep them focussed. Also the move to asymmetric will mean losing RICCT teachers? Teachers will need more training on subjects where skills need refreshed - music and PE primarily.

As a full time working mum who already pays between Â£850 and Â£1000 a month on childcare, will this move to an assymetric week cost me more on childcare?

How are nursery places going to work with the increase in the number of nursery hours for each child. Usually 2 sessions for nursery can be offered in the day. Will this change?

As both a teacher and a parent I am concerned about the late lunch on a Friday. 1.15 is far too late for children to have their lunch. It concerns me even more what will happen with lunches on a Friday-will students need to travel home first and not get lunch until much later. It also concerns and really bothers me that I have never had to have child care and I will need to on a Friday afternoon is training and meetings are taking place in this time. At present I take my children to school in the morning and my husband finishes work at 3p.m so he collects them at night.I am also concerned about what unsupervised kids will do on Friday afternoon.

As I work part time my contract of 0.6 may need some altering or adjustment. This is not of great concern but would effect me. In addition, I am a RICCT teacher and so the way in which I deliver RICCT may be altered.

A 50 minute period is a very short amount of time for a practical subject in a secondary school. By the time equipment has been collected and set up, there is very little time to accomplish much practical work before it would be time to pack it away again. This model would render single periods of PE and Home Economics virtually pointless.

Any model which included 3 periods of teaching after the lunch break would not be conducive to learning and teaching.

I don't have any issues with this change

Cost to local commerce and businesses and increased child care costs

None

This is purely cost cutting and of no benefit to pupils.

My wife and I work full time in Edinburgh, how are we supposed to cope with this?

I am concerned about the reduction in teacher numbers in the region although I can see the financial argument for this. I am also concerned that the longer day may be too much for younger primary pupils; also parents with standard working arrangements will face substantially increased childcare costs to cover the Friday afternoon with children effectively in school / childcare for more hours overall. This would benefit childcare providers but not necessarily families. Also, is there good quality childcare capacity in the area for after school care for a larger cohort of primary pupils than currently use it?

The children are tired at the end of the school day, to extend it would make them even more tired.

The longer day will also have an impact on how much the children will take in during the day, longer days, less motivation, less learning

During the winter kids are not likely to see much/if any daylight if the school day is expended

My husband and I both work full time, the asymmetric week would have an implication on child care.

I am not convinced that the proposed asymmetric week will in practice provide the same amount of teaching. Whilst a comparison of the amount of time between the current and proposed structure may be balanced on paper I am not convinced that in practice this will be the case.

Kids hanging about the town on a Friday afternoon bored, causing trouble. Also kids that travel by bus from outlying areas like Heriot and Fountainhall will get home later which in the winter months means they will be travelling to and from school in the dark. On free afternoon, lack of supervision & structure with more time either on streets or home alone for those with working parents.

Less time for after school activities on longer days.

The asymmetric week at school would make no difference to the implementation of the ghastly Curriculum for Excellence and as far as I'm concerned I feel the changes are unnecessary. Surely instead of wasting money changing the school week shouldn't the council focus on not cutting the wages of carers and night support workers across the Borders as they are vital to the local community? SBC have the wrong priorities here.

I have no real concerns or issues, other areas have implemented this years ago and seems to work well

Unlike the Lothians there is a lack of affordable breakfast clubs and after school facilities, with nothing suitable for young people at high school, are we expected to just let our young teens roam the streets until their parents get home from work?

Reduction of teachers is not acceptable. Teaching via Skype or whatever is not as good as face to face.....and what if the technology doesn't work from time to time? My children return home via service bus (this only runs during term time) will this bus service change time to accommodate the early finish on Friday or will my children be left roaming the streets waiting hours for the bus at the old time? How can timetables be aligned if schools are doing CoE differently....ie Earliston chose subjects after 2nd year and do 8 subjects Kelso didn't choose subjects til 3rd year and do 6 subjects with no uniformity in how the curriculum is implemented how is it possible to align timetables??

I am against the asymmetric week. I do not think it will deliver financial savings on its own and am concerned it is in preparation for a reduction in teaching hours in a subsequent year. I disagree on the points that it will enable e-learning and a greater choice in courses and no evidence has been produced to support this.

I am very concerned that the asymmetric week would result in less time for extra curricular activities which provide such valuable additional experiences, skills and help many many children develop capabilities and interests.

I am concerned that teachers would find moving to the asymmetric week difficult and stressful after a year implementing national 4s and 5s. This could lead to the reduction of quality of teaching.

Most of all the intention to reduce the number of teachers in the numbers required to make the financial savings stated must only be to the overall detriment of the educational quality my children receive.

I feel that the early finishes on a Friday will increase the stresses on Childminding for working parents. I am also deeply concerned about the fact that some children may effectively be on their own for a large portion of the day if their parents are not using childminders.

Child care on the shorter day is the immediate issue as in many cases with both parents working it will be challenging and potentially costly to ensure child care is available for that day every week.

There would also be a concern that with fewer teachers available that cover for absence would be more difficult and may impact quality or consistency of teaching.

childcare for working parents

are children getting enough breaks during the school day?

Would lunchtime activities still have enough time to run?

Change in times and safety of children living in outlying areas who's journeys would be earlier and later. This will mean children

being forced to walk up rural unlit roads in the dark months.

Childcare for working parents

1. We are 14 country miles from our catchment high school. I don't want the pupils to have to arrive at school any earlier than they currently do. Teenagers have a great deal of trouble getting up in the morning. Evidence shows that their body clocks are shifted to give peak performance later in the day.

2. I will need to see real evidence that the teachers are actually working their full number of hours and not just 'bunking off'. I am already unimpressed at how many holidays and in-service days we parents have to accommodate. When I worked full-time my contracted (for that read 'minimum') hours were 7.5 hours per day NOT including lunch, with 28 days annual leave.

3. I am worried that lunchtime music & sport activities will be curtailed or lost.

4. As a Council Tax payer, I insist that school facilities must be available for community use at very reasonable rates on the afternoon when school is not in session. The truth is that janitors are not very well paid, so I think having them on site at these times is something you will have to include in the budget.

Child care provision for Fridays when working

None

None so long as quality of education is not affected or can even be improved

At the current time schools are trying to cope with changes for the new curriculum for excellence. Secondly school children are likely to suffer from less access to teaching hours at a time when we do not know how local schools are at delivering the new curriculum. Cost savings should be made in areas other than reduction of teaching hours. As parents I would expect for us to be able to respond on consultation on a range of cost saving measures so we can really make an informed choice. What other options have been considered? This decision should not be made until the first few years of exam results of curriculum for excellence have been analysed to ensure our children are getting the teaching hours they need.

child care

Primary and secondary

Holidays are long enough, and in-service days added on to hols and week-ends mean that a shorter week with in-service days or hols, children would hardly be there.

Reduced lunch times and after school time, meaning fewer opportunities for clubs, bands and other in-school activities not centred around the classroom.

Also, given that teachers will be even more stretched for time, given they still have to attend Friday PM, they will, quite rightly, be less willing to carry out other non-core activities, such as the aforementioned clubs, plus sports, Duke of Edinburgh, assisting with shows and events, and all of the other things that make school life vibrant.

Plus the sacking of teachers which has been made easier - as if no one noticed - by the removal of the "transfer guarantee" rule, means that unemployment goes up, and good teachers move out of the area.

No major concerns as long as teaching hours remain the same, and a wide variety of courses is offered including the arts and technical subjects.

My children possibly travelling between schools.

With remote learning you still require a teacher in front of a class.

Classes sitting in on video conference type learning is a step back in quality teaching.

Savings can be made further up the education chain!

Choices for Examinations Subjects be even more restricted.

Not enough child care available for this to take place with the early closure of schools on a Friday.

Child care this is not for working single parents.

#### FITTING IN WITH WORKING COMMITMENTS

How pupils from the Borders region will compete with others for University places when the time in school for learning is cut.

I do not understand how you can cut half a day from school hours without reducing the time available for learning unless you ask pupils to attend from an earlier time or stay later which does seem as something being cop-spidered. The Edinburgh schools do indeed have a half day on a Friday but start earlier and finish after than borders schools.

my child currently is collected by school transport at 7.40 am and if sent home at 1.15 pm on a Friday would not be able to access lunch until 2.30pm - this means over 7 hours between breakfast and lunch and only time for a mid morning snack - not enough for a growing teenager who often feels sick/dizzy if he doesn't eat regularly.

The fact that schools will close at different times on different days. School session should be 9am to 4pm in High schools.

None

I normally work on a Friday until 3.30pm so this means this is going to affect and involve my employer as I will now have to change my working hours. As my son gets dropped off on the side of a main busy road by the school bus it is very important that I am around to meet the school bus when he is dropped off.

- childcare; where are the children expected to go on a Friday afternoon if parents are working?
- How many teachers will be made redundant
- if courses are provided on a shared basis there is a possibility that standards may be diluted as all schools a

The only issue is the lack of education/care available for my children on Friday afternoons.

There are practicalities of child care to be considered.

In other areas of Scotland where this happens, parents will more willingly allow their child to remain off school. This will be detrimental to all involved.

We have already had a reorganisation of the school week to facilitate CFE at BHS we have two short days and varying lunch times. We have organised and paid for activities to fit in with this, this is yet another change and one that we cannot be expected to accept within this school year.

What happens to children on Friday afternoon, have they access to a hot school lunch before being released into the community. What are working parents to do?

Break periods are not identified throughout these documents, do we now have 4 equal lunch hours so that school activities ie extra sport/music ensembles can make more better use of the time?

this is unworkable. stagnant wages and rising living costs mean both parents have to work. losing half a day's work to provide

childcare cuts household income accordingly. the cost is therefore simply being passed on to parents and the wider economy. the loss of half a day for pupils reduces teaching time and interaction with the institution.

Who would cover childcare costs for the extra afternoon?

Childcare on a friday afternoon

For me, no issues but think childcare would be a concern to many.

Children will be home alone.

None in particular. I work from home and my family could embrace this change without difficulty

I have no issues with this

I have no issues with this plan.



That many parents will have to find child care for an additional half day per week.

In effect, part of the cost savings you and your regional council expect to make shall be borne by families through the need for additional childcare payments, or to reduce their working week by a half day in order to be able to look after their children.

Either way, you are passing your savings to be borne by families.

None.

None

Children in rural areas will have to leave earlier and get home later

It has been proven that young adults/teenagers are more attentive & produce better work when they start school later in the day. There is also improved attendance and less misbehaviour - getting them to begin their day earlier (albeit 10 minutes) is detrimental to their education. We want our children to do well and if we can achieve this by changing the hours, surely starting later would be a better option?

As a working parent with a younger age High School child, it would be difficult for me to change my working hours on a Friday, as it is my busiest day. With a partner who works in Aberdeen during the week, I would be the one to have to make these changes - I don't want my child to return home to an empty house & she is too young to be on her own (we live 7 miles out of Duns, with few neighbours able to look after her). Due to the distance from our nearest school (BHS), at the moment the school bus picks my daughter up at 8.10am (but still only just gets to school by the bell) & drops off at around 4.30pm on most days (4pm-ish Wed & Fri). It is not easy to get her out in time for it in the mornings anyway. In Winter it is usually still pretty dark waiting for the bus to pick up & drop off, which is always a concern on a dangerous stretch of rural

It would appear this this proposal is teacher based with no consideration made for the pupils or the impact this will have for families and working parents.

I am concerned as a nursery worker the introduction of 600 hours in the nursery year means that parents with older children

school will not bring their child to nursery on a Friday afternoon. Also that depending on the times that children maybe dropped off parents will not be willing to hang around waiting to pick up their child from nursery!

you say you are doing this to enhance the planning of the curriculum for Excellence. I as a parent feel the schools have not

been ready for this at all and should have waited until the time was right. My child who is in 4th year as with all 4th years have suffered as a result of this stupidity! Also as a person working in Education the same reason! This is not getting it right for every child (GIRFEC)

I am office staff in a school and wonder whether my hours would be cut or if i would be off on a Friday afternoon.

Would the primary school children still have lunch and would children who travel by school bus need to leave home earlier

There are many one is extra child care required on a Friday getting someone to collect them from school. They are not finishing much later either on the other days. Selkirk high three days being 3.40 only 5 mins different, we have just had change off getting them out earlier to 3.10 on two days which affect child care needs.

Teaching will be affected in the long term with Monday holidays more school time will be lost as they only there half day Friday instead off full day. Parents needing to be available and lose off wages if they have to reduce there hours further.

Kids concentration needs to be taken into affect and to also promote a working week not half days.

Earlier start for students who already begin day at 8am for travelling purposes. Later finish on some days, making the school day very long Shorter lunch hour will restrict extracurricular activities, also restricted by later finish on some days. All activities will take place on shorter day, longer lunch hours, and so number of activities undertaken by students restricted.

Is the friday afternoon to be used for collegiate time/ staff meetings etc?

How long is the lunch break on mon-thursday? I can't see how we can finish as early as 3.15pm on these days.

What effect does this have on part-time workers? For example, if working on a 0.6 contract, then working a mon-wed would be more hours than working a wed-friday.

Is there to be substantial investment in IT and training to allow us to effectively align and deliver courses with other schools?

ensure primary pupils are looked after by parent/carers on early closure days

vulnerable children on a non-pupil afternoon

issues for families

how the school will be used on a non-pupil afternoon

I am a Principal teacher and want to know how these changes might affect me and the team I manage, including the Additional Needs Assistants.

The primary issue is the additional cost of child care on Friday afternoons. Whilst the asymmetric week may well save the Council money, it will result in significant increased costs for parents, especially those with small children.

A secondary issue concerns the likelihood of High School pupils roaming around Peebles on a Friday afternoon following the early end of the school day. This will almost certainly result in incidents of anti-social behaviour in the town on friday afternoon.

I strongly OBJECT to these proposals.

I have no objections with the move to an asymmetric week.

Childcare on the half day

Concerns over maintenance of teaching standards - I feel this is cost cutting by the back door which is being window dressed as "efficiency savings" but in reality any loss of teaching staff is detrimental to our childrens education.

Childcare availability and cost. Longer days for young children.

How can an extra 20 minutes in school mon-thurs counteract the 2hrs 35mins that my primary age children will lose on a Friday. As for the secondary school child those are the times they go in to school their school day finishes at 3.45pm 3 days a week, with the other 2 days finishing at 3.10pm. WHY are the kids having education taken away from them to save money..

My child already arrives home at 5pm from high school and leaves at 7:15 this is having a detrimental effect on her already how will a longer school day help her?

My youngest is struggling with the hours at the moment in the winter how's she meant to cope?

Potential child-care issues with working parents

I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO-ONE THAT CAN HELP WITH CHILDCARE. I HAVE ALREADY DROPPED FROM FULL-TIME TO PARTTIME WORKING BECAUSE OF THIS WITH A HUGE FINANCIAL HIT. I WORK 9AM-2:30PM EVERY DAY I WORK FOR THE NHS, A CHANGE TO MY WORKING PATTERN IS IMPOSSIBLE

No concerns about this.

Difficulties with work, travel, child care arrangements

Additional childcare needed for Friday Afternoons however this is minimal and will not impact heavily. Education comes before any grumbles in relation to an hour and a half childcare costs

In the first instance I don't understand how this will do anything other than help the council make savings. I don't believe this is of benefit to the children. Many parents work to make ends meet and these proposals would mean paying for child care or relying on family to look after children. I would also have concerns about transport arrangements. Children who rely on school transport would have to leave even earlier in the mornings.

Even longer school day on Mon-Thurs. Already very long day for those who have to travel from West Linton by bus.

difficulty organising childcare for Friday afternoons for working parents

Increased child care costs in already stretched household budgets.

The increase in additional child care I would have to pay,

The only issue I have is if I had no childcare on the Fri - would after school club be able to accommodate children?

Reduced lunch times resulting in less time for sport clubs to meet and practice.

If teachers are staying later classroom teaching Mon to Thursday they are less likely to want to stay and run after school clubs.

Children will get back home in the dark for more of the year than currently. My children arrive home at 4.30pm at the moment and it is dark for a few months of the year. Arriving home later than this will mean it is dark for more months of the year.

issues include child care on the Friday afternoon,

Safety of children having to travel, walk to school earlier on Dark mornings.

None

Longer school day seems unrealistic for the younger children. My personal experience is that children are exhausted with the day as it stands, making it longer would def not maximise the child's learning, but would detract from it!

Both myself and my husband work full time. We have no child care for a Friday afternoon. I am also not in favour of my child receiving less hours teaching time.

I would have to ask why when other public bodies manage to undertake training in house and during working hours why the schools cannot do this. They have more than generous holidays and could possible do something around this to encompass training etc.

I think it a bad idea, it does not prepare children for life in the real world, I struggled when I got to college and was expected to attend five full days.

Covering Friday afternoon childcare for working parents. Availability of public transport at new times. Long day for primary kids.

Presume lunch breaks will be shorter for Secondary school pupils which will have an impact on lunchtime activity clubs. Longer days for early years especially primary 1 pupils which my daughter will be 1. Additional childcare issues on Friday afternoons.

It will not work as most parents have to work and i cannot see us getting free childcare i have a daughter at high school who

will be sitting her exams and needs to be in school i also have a son at primary who has additional needs he is coping very well at the moment but i will be furious if because of cutting hours that his education will suffer .

childcare cover on Friday afternoon as both parents work full time. lack of clarity of advantages for pupils of moving to this timetable.

I have children ranging in age from P1 to S5. While the longer days will not be an issue for the older children, the younger primary children will struggle with the longer days, with little benefit being seen from the half day Friday. Having experienced several years of the asymmetric school week when we lived in Midlothian, I can say, without any doubt, my children respond better to the routine of the five-day constant week.

As a self-employed working mother, I already struggle to fit a full-time business around the school day, and the half day Friday will have a significantly negative effect on my ability to provide a satisfactory service to my current clients, as I live in an area with only 1 childcare provider, who is already filled to capacity.

Childcare

The less the children are in school, the less they learn.

This is going to put tremendous financial stress on families. Just because other councils implement this, doesn't mean we should. I'm very much against this.

None - we have arranged our jobs to fit in with our children and their education, one of us choosing not to work rather than needing child care and then in the last few years working part time, again to fit in with when the kids finish primary and high school each day respectively.

Extra Childcare on Fridays

Childcare for working parents, high school children with no activities

Too long a school day for younger pupils...the 9.00 - 3.00pm day is already exhausting for many P1/P2 pupils. Much of Europe doesn't even start children off in school at the age of 4 years.

Clearly to save money for the government but will force full time working parents to pay for more childcare. This would be 16 hours extra a month.

My daughter's bus only just gets her to school On time at the moment will this be improved?

Kids being bored on a Friday afternoon when they should be in school. School days being too long especially for younger children or children with additional needs. I think the school day is already long enough and do not want my children to have longer days.

None

1) Care for my children outside the proposed hours as I am a full time working mum.

2) Companies will be expected to accommodate working mothers. How can a company accommodate and justify the new working hours that so many working mothers will need?

This is a short sighted policy from SBC. Children will be increasingly tired from the extended hours, and it will cause chaos for working parents.

Not sure how you can save money if the kids are in school the same number of hours?

There are child care issues for me as my husband and I work full time and though I can manage this I am concerned for the many parents who can't. More than that I am really concerned and worried about the changes to S4 only allowing pupils to sit 5 exams and they only have one year to do this in. This is so restrictive and what happens if a pupil struggles and they then have to do the same subjects for highers.

I'm concerned for the welfare of pupils that are entitled to free school meals: What happens on a Friday when they'd normally receive one of the few decent meals they get? Also, what canteen provision will be provided before school and at break time on Fridays?

The early finishing time will increase the cost of childcare for working parents.

The actual teaching time of each period will be reduced as you are taking 4mins out of the period. Allowing for pupils getting to classes and actually being ready to begin work makes a 50min period significantly less.

The asymmetric week does not offer any immediately visible way for teacher numbers to be reduced. As a parent of an S4 student at Kelso High School, who is only able to study 6 subjects, I am concerned that "shared learning" would involve core subjects which should demand one teacher in the same class room. Demand for certain classes this year has been such that reducing teacher numbers would be severely detrimental.

Previous "pitches" regarding asymmetric weeks were also keen to promote the benefit of additional subjects being available via video conference etc, especially where the subject was less in demand and unlikely to be part of a normal curriculum. How would this help reduce teacher numbers?

Starting and finishing times being the same for Primary and Secondary schools, I have to transport both my children which go to school approx. 7 miles apart and will both need picked up and dropped at the same time. I can't be in 2 places at once and I am sure the schools will not be pleased at me dropping 30 mins before school starts if not earlier to be able to work round it. Also I cannot leave my primary school son and High school special needs daughter standing for ages on pick up times. Unless of course sbc are willing to pay for a taxi for my daughter for the 20 mile (ish) round trip morning and night?

The main driver for doing this is to save money and have less teachers rather than provide a better education. If applied I will

need to take a half day every week thus destroying my Annual Leave allowance and leaving little left to cover school holidays. This will adversely affect family life.

No concerns

No issues personally.

Issues will arise in respect of working parents who are unable to flex their hours/working practices and may incur additional childcare costs as a result not offset by other changes in timings.

Also, issues over provision of school lunches on Fridays - will this happen - in particular as it affects more vulnerable/socially deprived children who rely on the school lunch for a decent meal in the day.

Childcare for Friday afternoons!

Finishing at 1.15 on a Friday will have an adverse affect on the pupils, they will certainly not concentrate as much on a Friday morning knowing that they are leaving at lunchtime! I would like to see a breakdown of all beneficial reductions in cost as logically it's hard to understand how finishing 2 hrs early will reduce costs by the amount envisaged. Also will this mean that there will be no more teacher training days added on to half terms and general ad hoc days? Surely by extending the days during the rest of the week the children especially primary school pupils will be tired and their concentration levels lower?

none. great idea.

1. Concern that pupils will be experiencing a significantly longer day Mon-Thursday and will be more tired and anxious as a consequence.
2. Pupils will be travelling to and from school in the winter in the dark. Therefore at higher risk of road traffic accidents.
3. Less time after school for extra curricular activities.
4. Potentially groups of High School pupils hanging around towns on Friday afternoons unoccupied and with the potential to get into trouble.
5. As a working parent I am clear that this change will add to the difficulties that parents like myself have in trying to combine a professional career with being a parent of school age children.

I do not support the decision to move to an asymmetric week.

I cannot finish work this early on a Friday to pick up my children

At the moment there are no issues as my working hours are part time and I can adjust without requiring child care.

Childcare issues. Where do the kids go while parents at work?

Child care.. While you will be making savings families will be financially worse off as they will have extra child care costs.

None, think it is a great idea.

I fail to understand how this move can come even close to making savings of 11 million. How many teachers jobs are planning to be cut? It will place excessive demands on remaining staff and can only negatively impact the quality of education.

Also the issue of extra childcare on Friday afternoons will have a big impact on parents of schoolchildren. Where childcare isnt practical employers will need to sympathetic to these changes, even if they are, the extra time off required by parents will have a significant negative financial impact for many families already struggling.

Impact on the pupils education. At a time when school results in the UK are far behind that of many other parts of the world the council wants to put cost savings above the education of our children.

Childcare costs will increase when families can least afford to pay more, also availability of childcare may not always be an option so what are parents supposed to do in this case if no one is available to care for their children, they cannot request an Asymmetric week from their employer.



Child Care concerns. I work fulltime and only just manage to cover childcare over the week based on 5 full days at school.

What is the ultimate aim? Is it considered to be in the best interests of the children and young people or is it about saving money?

Is it about giving education staff even more time away from direct teaching?

Would it not be better to reduce the amount of holidays that teachers get? For example reducing summer holidays to 4 weeks so that families can manage better?

Loss of various activities including sport, art, music etc.

Children left unattended during the day while parents are at work.

Loss of extra curricular activities that teachers are willing to provide

Timing of school day & after school activities.

Cost of this consultation when it seems there is no choice due to budget difficulties!

None

I have no real issues as a parent, other than that I am slightly worried about the length of the school day for the younger children for four out of the 5 days, ie. I think it will be too long. As a childcare provider working from home I am worried about work pressures on a Friday afternoon.

I am opposed to the asymmetric week proposal. It will give us a child care problem as we both work. This has a financial implication for the family.

None

No issues

I have a few concerns about an asymmetric week. Childcare is a big issue. Suddenly working parents will have to provide on a Friday afternoon at extra cost! Another issue is if high school and primary schools are finishing at the same time, I would have to be in two places at the same time to collect my children! Finally and most importantly I'm not sure how you can guarantee that my children will receive the same level of education as they do now. Particularly young children who will struggle to concentrate on longer days!

None.

I will need to buy extra childcare for the time my children are now not in school.

At the moment there have only been examples of what an asymmetric week MAY look like for primary and secondary without any indication of break times included. I find it difficult to understand how pupils could go to school 10 minutes earlier and stay 10 later 4 days a week (a total of 1 hour and 20 minutes) but lose a total of at least 2 hours on a Friday afternoon and be told the children will have the same amount of classroom contact time. Primary pupils currently get lunch around 12 noon but will be in school until 1:15 on a Friday, I assume they will go home for a very late lunch. What about schools that currently start at 8:30 am? What will an asymmetric week look like for them? What about lunch time activities on a Friday? Will HS pupils still get a full hour for lunch? On a personal note, this change makes it very difficult for parents who work on Fridays; afterschool activities will also become more difficult at later times, especially in winter months when it is already very dark.

I'm a single parent who already works part time for six hrs. per day. I work mostly in east lothian and to go for half a day on a Friday would cover my travelling expenses with Â£9.00 left over...I don't think that's going to work. Altogether I stand to lose over Â£3000 per annum!!!

Longer day for children

Child care issues for child at primary school

no issues

If the students don't get lunch till school finishes on a Friday then potentially they won't get fed before 1.30 and possibly later. This is too late.

having lived outwith the county and had children who attended schools with the proposed school week plan i feel that since moving to the borders and having the kids in school on a friday for a full day it has brought their education on remarkably and feel that it is hard enough to occupy kids at the weekend without adding the complication of a half day, not to mention the knock on effect to childcare for working parents.

Longer days mean more tired children therefore not as alert in class for learning. Extra child care costs. Do not agree that it would save money. As surely there is a cost involved in setting this up.

The main issue for me in West Linton is the school bus and the possibility of it leaving the village even earlier to accommodate an earlier start to the school day. We live a mile from the village and at present my son leaves the house at 7.40 to catch his 8.05 bus.

We are residents of the Upper Tweed area, and my daughter is collected by the school bus at 0730 and is not dropped off at home until 1640. This is a working day of over 9 hours. I am extremely concerned that these changes will increase the length of her working day to unsustainable levels.

By lengthening the day this proposed change does not take into consideration the needs of remote rural pupils. If this change is to be workable the council must reduce the traveling times. A taxi or dedicated service for the most outlying pupils would be one way of achieving this.

Childcare is an issue - working full time, with no immediate family in the vicinity means organising and paying for Childcare . A situation which will be faced by many I suspect . For my secondary age child - my concern having seen it elsewhere is that Friday afternoons will see gangs of teenagers hanging around the Borders towns- they will not go straight home unless picked up.

Child care on a Friday afternoon

Childcare on a friday for working parents, earlier starts in the dark winter mornings.

I think these are long days for primary school children. Some people struggle to get children there on time as it is. Also having to go to both the school and the nursery means going back and forwards all day. Older children will be home on a Friday afternoon whilst nursery ones will still be attending.

Childcare on a Friday afternoon when I am working. I work around my children being at school and have no care for 3 children on a Friday.

2 children different schools finishing at the same time, transport issues, no one at home, plus our school has only just gone to 33 period week after going against what the parents voted against last time time.

My major concerns around the move to the asymmetric week are as follows;

- this is purely a money-saving exercise and not primarily about benefit to pupils
- ultimately, this will lead to the loss of jobs for teachers
- there will be an extra 45 mins added to the primary school week- what will this be used for?
- many of the clubs and activities at Peebles High School take place during their lunch break. Will the breaks for pupils remain as they are for primary and secondary schools?
- I am concerned that the earlier starts and later finishes will mean that pupils will travel to and from school during more twilight/dark mornings/afternoons. I assume this has been calculated by the Council- how many extra days will this affect?
- An early finish would be great for pupils, but, most parents like myself work full-time. What measures would be implemented to ensure that extra childcare could be found to cover the change in school hours?

Childcare.

CHILDCARE, CHILDCARE, CHILDCARE!

As a council worker hopefully the council are prepared for the deluge in change in hours requests?

Child care issues for Friday afternoon

I have no real objections to the asymmetric week. As a music teacher, I am keen to maintain a lunchtime long enough to hold rehearsals for extra-curricular groups. 50 minutes would be sufficient to hold meaningful rehearsals but any less than this would not be viable. Participation in extra-curricular groups is an integral part of learning to play an instrument and plays an important role in preparing pupils for SQA exams. More importantly in the context of Curriculum for Excellence, it affords pupils the opportunity to fulfil the four CfE capacities - e.g. becoming responsible citizens, effective contributors, etc. These groups also provide a social opportunity for pupils and contribute to the ethos of the school. It is important that extra-curricular activities are not overlooked in the relentless drive for (exam-based) attainment.

As a parent the issues for me are:

- increased childcare costs for the Friday afternoon
- lunch would have to be provided by childcare facility on Fridays
- finishing at 1.15pm on Fridays would be too late for lunch
- this seems like a very long day for younger primary school children

I am currently employed by SBC as a class teacher, with a 0.6 contract (3days, not a Friday). How will an asymmetric week work for me? Will I be expected to work on a Friday afternoon? If not, when would I complete staff development etc? Very concerned how this will affect me. Child care will become an issue for my family.

Our Primary already has a 8.30am start, with some pupils having to travel some distance to arrive on time. Lengthening the day would be exhausting for them. I believe their learning would be at risk. Longer school days do not necessarily mean longer learning times, and that is not due to poor teaching! Children need a break.

Both of us work and we have no family to look after our children on a Friday afternoon. Over many years in my job I have organised to finish work at 3pm to enable me to care for my children. Both my children get a bus to school. and have to leave at 7.57 and 8.25 , an earlier start will mean a 7.40 bus and probably not home until 5pm 4 days a week . Not leaving much time for extra curricular or homework . I think he will be too tired .

I work from home and would be happy for my children to be home early on a Friday . I would be unhappy in Earleston High schools Day is increased Mon- Thu as my daughter has a slow bus and the day is long enough already.

quality of teaching and learning - how would the move to an asymmetric week ensure that pupil learning is sustained and that in a number of instances quality of teaching is improved in some of the regions schools?

Is there a risk that because of a lack of engagement by staff and 'bringing them up-to speed' with new approaches to learning that some groups of pupils will be disadvantaged in the short/medium term with the move to an asymmetric week?

pupil attainment - where collaboration across schools is being looked at for various courses at secondary level, how will student progress be monitored?

face to face contact - where cross school collaboration is being looked at for some subjects, will there be opportunities for students to get together through use of 'summer school' type programme?

What will be the impact be on the Borders Economy, Emergency Services, will the Borders grind to a halt after lunch on Fridays as parents need time off to care for their children? After school facilities are inadequate, not all parents will be able to meet the cost of extra child care if extra places are available!

no issues it is a great idea for saving council money

Will our lunches/breaks be reduced in length?

Having worked in East Lothian I know of the benefits to staff for training and consultation etc. I found it a very effective way of working.

None I am for this

I have no issues and fully support the move to the asymmetric week.

As a teacher I am against the asymmetric week. I work in a school that already has a late finish and extending the school day even more would effect the quality of education being delivered. Children are tired at the end of a day and especially in the winter months they do not want to be at school for even longer. It will also affect my colleagues who work part time, especially those who do not work on a Friday as there will now be the expectation for them to come to work for cat sessions on their day off.

The shorter lunch times will mean that there will be fewer extra curricular activities available as is already the case in some schools which have an asymmetric week. Also, a number of pupils have to wait up to 45 minutes for their bus on the shorter days. This is a waste of everyone's time.

Childcare on the afternoon of the 'short' day in an asymmetric week. Quality of learning, particularly for very young pupils, as they become tired on the 'long' days in the week - the exact start, finish and break times must be carefully considered to minimise this issue.

Shortened lunch break means most extra curricular activities will cease.

Individual schools can decide on the arrangement of their collegiate time through collegiate groups - it is not within the authority of the region to do so.

Must ensure that school transport accommodates the school times, with pupils arriving in plenty of time for start of school and no time wasted hanging around at the end of school, including the short day.

The length of the school day - Monday to Thursday for secondary schools - also how much time is for registration, interval and lunch. Short lunches result in deterioration of extra curricular activities.

A very long day for younger pupils, both primary and lower secondary.

Increased tiredness, both staff and pupils.

Inconvenience for working parents.

E-learning with current IT levels are a pipe-dream.

If all meetings are scheduled for the same time then it will only be possible to attend one meeting, membership of more than one group/working party/interest group becomes very difficult.

As a teacher I am broadly in favour of the asymmetric week. However, I think it is important that the Friday afternoon doesn't become 'fully booked' with meetings since this time will be required for preparation, marking and development on an individual teacher basis. Therefore there should be a maximum number of Friday afternoons that are committed, leaving the remainder for the individual teacher to use according to their personal work needs.

No issues with moving to asymmetric week

The only thing that would be at a secondary school level would be the continuation of form/registration time. Personally I see this

as a highly important and beneficial part to the school day for pupils and staff.

I do not wish the schools to be made to carry out the 3-year broad general education. From information I have looked at it seems to have a negative impact on learning. The stress being put on teachers at this moment is overwhelming and support is needed.

I am a teacher with 34 years experience. I have worked with the asymmetric week before and found it to be detrimental to pupil's education. In particular the Friday morning is looked upon as not a time to work by pupils. Behaviour is worse dress code is not adhered to many pupils do not bring pens pencils etc.

This is not consultation. The decision to change to this has already been made. What staff or parents think is irrelevant.

You do not mention the length of lunch times. This could have catastrophic consequences for extra-curricular activities that enhance the school lives of the pupils and are a vital part of their applications to further studies. An afternoon is not enough to run all groups. Schools such as PHS cannot run clubs after school due to transport problems for students from remote areas. This will result in discrimination as those who do not have parents able to collect them on a weekly basis will be excluded from groups.

Keeping the collaborative opportunities open to nursery teachers with teaching colleagues in the school if there is still to be a nursery session on the Friday afternoon.

I am a principal teacher who works four days a week not a Friday under the 'winding down' scheme. What provision has been made for teachers like me who do not work on a Friday?

I work a Monday and Tuesday. How will this affect my pay and conditions.?

The issues for me are about how this affects part-time colleagues and their pro-rata arrangements.

The 4 long teaching days have a shorter lunch break which limits extra curricular activities. Having these activities only available one day a week limits what children can become involved in and disadvantages pupils who rely on school transport. This will have a negative effect on school ethos and moral.

Much more will be expected of staff, who are already pushed to the limit. Will there be any benefit to staff at all? It is likely that any weekly meetings will be timetabled now for a Friday afternoon, so no, there will be no benefits for staff with a 1.15pm end to the day on a Friday.

How will you link Nursery 600 hours to 4 1/2 days. What will happen to the Nursery Teacher? Does that mean that afternoon nursery have less access to a qualified teacher?

What about free school meals? And kitchen staff?

work in 3 different learning communities. Some Nurseries operate in the afternoon

I have no major concerns or issues and feel it could be beneficial.

what is packed into an already packed day, being squeezed into fewer days. New courses, larger classes, assessments which demand a lot of administration, marking....A longer contact day is much more intensive.almost each day already we interact with more than 100 pupils - how do we maintain high standards, develop personalisation and choice and find the motivation to undertake extracurricular activities?

I am job share and do not currently work on a Friday so would in theory have to swap days and other commitments.

I teach in different schools on different days. I am a full time employee with two contracts. one for 0.6 fte and one for 0.4 fte.

My days change each year. How will I be timetabled for each contract if my contact hours are different and do not add up to the right amount?



length of working week, I don't work on a Friday for health reasons and the stress of longer working hours will not help me either

Contract will need to be renegotiated

Sports clubs run on Fridays will cease

Losing specialist teachers. Primary teachers becoming jacks of all trades and children not getting the best quality teaching for those subjects. At present 3 hours of training in becoming a PE teacher is not even close to being enough and what about music and training for that when the school CPD calendars are full for this school year

None

The huge shortage of child care in the Borders for working parents.

Don't see how this saves money at all in the primary sector as few if any teachers are involved in these meetings at the moment.

Secondary Schools will need to carefully consider whether they go for 2 3 2 or 2 2 3 periods per day

Pupils in lower primary are already struggling to learn at the end of the day. A longer day for P1 and P2 is counterproductive.

If lunch is provided on Friday who is going to staff this. If it is management then they will not be available to lead CPD/CATT sessions.

What are the consequences for part time staff who do not work on Fridays? Do they get paid for the hours they work extra on the other days?

Are they not going to work full days, how is cover going to be organised for these staff members.

no issues or concerns

As these new schools are funded and paid for by us through a P.F.I. And the lights and heating is on for most of the time!

THIS IS A POOR USE OF OUR INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION OF SCOTLAND, S MOST VALUABLE ASSET :- our young people! Without structure and guidance the most vulnerable kids will not use this time for e learning? And many parents will have to pay more for child care, or ask to have their working week shortened, which will cost them money!

In ability of staff to arrange childcare for Friday afternoons. Many working mothers have arranged their working hours round school times and that in general is not a huge problem for many employers but the proposed change may result in many employers being asked to change that arrangement and possibly lose a member of staff on Friday afternoons.

Removing mothers from work early on Friday afternoon and apart from extra expense for staff child care the lack of places for

those of non nursery age. Leaving 4 hours early on a Friday afternoon will result in loss of earnings and the need for staff cover means we could not simply absorb the loss.

Will this eman an end to local employers haveing to release staff to look after children because teachers are having In Service

days?

This is nonsensical and will not work due to the distance between schools. We have already seen pupils forced to move schools due to subjects and levels being cut. Resources are insufficient to actually teach. Exams are now a joke. I as an employer find that many people leaving school are unfit to actually gain a position within my company. They have not been properly educated, they have a dismal attitude - they get away with murder at school but do not understand the realities of life. Some of you teachers out there clearly do not either.

I think that the school day is long enough as it is. To extend the school day just to shorten 1 day a week I personally feel

would have a negative effect as the children would be more tired and also if children know that they are only at school for part of a day I don't believe their head will fully be concentrating on their work. I think it will also cause problems for those children that already have to leave home early in the mornings if they have a considerable time to travel. I think it would be unreasonable to expect them to be leaving any earlier than they currently do.

I think this is a good idea, my nices and nephews who lived in Edinburgh followed this routine and it worked well.

none just a little juggling of child care but as school days are not full work days i have this to think about anyway

I have concerns that moving to an assymmetric week means more 'learning' occurring in concentrated blocks which is not good

for knowledge retention. There is clear scientific evidence that learning while tired is detrimental and not as productive for children, in particular teenagers. In moving to an asymmetric week the school pupil will necessarily need to complete more work in longer days therefore reducing their innate ability to learn.

As a working parent family this would cause us child care issues on the short day. We work in a different town to where the school is and would have issues in collecting too as times are changing.

This proposal is jst going to add to parents child care costs. My child isnt at school yet but there is no way husband or i could

take a friday off which also causes the problem that everyone has so is ample childcare going to be available for these parents that your ment to be encouraging to go back to work and how much is it going to cost me

-Quality of teaching may suffer as a result of this with longer days (and more tired children) during the week and a shorter unproductive day on a Friday.

-Finishing at Friday lunchtime may just be viewed by staff as a 'half day'.

- This now seems out

Earlier start for primary pupils - walking to/from school when still dark during winter

High school pupils who already struggle with attendance May not attend school for half day

Will children and young people who are eligible for free school meals get lunch on Friday?

Risk of Friday becoming a "leisure day" for staff and pupils - less productive

Extra child care/expense - parents who work fulltime

That you don,t even know the questions.

As a childcarer, the potential for differing school and nursery start/ finish times would result in difficulties.

My only concern is that parents are given enough time to rearrange their work paterns so that they are able to ensure that

children are cared for during the 1/2 day.

1. Changing of start and finish time “ this will have an impact not only on pupils and their families, but for transport companies also “ has the views of other “stakeholders” been requested/taken into account

2. How are the cost savings going to be quantified i.e. fewer full time teacher contracts, what happens to the contracts of present teachers as they will be working fewer hours. The article states that the half days could be used more efficiently for teach training, does this mean that there will be less “in service days” and ad hoc holidays.

3. This will have a personal impact of having to find paid Childcare. It is not felt that this consultation has been given enough time for families to make any changes to the current situation as smooth as possible without having a negative impact of the child/children involved.

4. This will also have an affect on both myself and husbands employment situation on these days.

Will the children be provided with a lunch on the Friday ?

Start time for Newlands Primary is already 8.30am I don't think this should be made any earlier. They school day is already very long for the youngest pupils. Childcare for a Friday afternoon.

**COMMENTS**

**RESPONDENT**

support staff - SBC

I support the idea but it's not going to save that much money.

support staff - SBC

I would like to give an even-handed, balanced feedback but I struggle to see any benefits. Except for the teachers; for them I can see benefit.

support staff - SBC

support staff - SBC

will the resilient schools policy stay the same

support staff - SBC

support staff - SBC

What happens to peoples children on the shortened day when parents are at work?

Is there going to be more provision for after school care on the friday and if so who is going to staff this and at what cost.

If so ,do you expect there to be large numbers of children at these clubs? which may impact on staff within the school where the club is? support staff - SBC

There are no benefits to moving to an asymmetric working week for working parents. I need to work in Edinburgh, as does my husband as there aren't enough highly skilled/professional jobs available in the Borders. We moved to the Borders for quality of life reasons but are finding that access to local jobs and access to flexible childcare is proving very difficult. If an asymmetric week is introduced we will have to seriously think about leaving the area as the costs of travelling, the costs of childcare and the lack of childcare is having will have a severe/ adverse affect on our quality of life. I believe if you implement this policy it will lead to many, like ourselves, moving out of the area - not out of choice but because the economic impact will be so great. I imagine this policy will affect everyone with children in the area and will push many young families into poverty, keep families already in poverty and drive those that have transferable skills out of the area. You will be left, more and more with an elderly population as people leave the area.

parent - Primary School  
parent - Primary School  
parent - Primary School

On the other hand, it would be nice to have one weekday afternoon with my child off school/at home.

No benefits

parent - Primary School  
parent - Primary School  
parent - Primary School

As above, good idea.

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

Obvious benefit is for after school activities (including inter school sports) parent - Primary School

there are no benefits that I can see. Although, i do have concerns that if the assymetric week is binned where are you going to make Â£11million of cuts from. And even if the assymetric week is introduced, that isn't going to save Â£11million! what else is there planned? parent - Primary School

Unless you are planning on increasing childcare provision amd reducing childcare costs then these proposals are unworkable. Certainly for primary aged children. It might work better with just secondary school children parent - Primary School  
parent - Primary School

I can see some families having issues with child care for the half-day but we are a 1 income family at the moment so not an issue for us. parent - Primary School  
parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School  
parent - Primary School

None other than I am in favour of it.  
the school week is long enough for the younger primary school kids so i think a half day off would be good parent - Primary School  
parent - Primary School

Benefits could be if the dreaded in service day was abolished Suits me fine but only because I don't work on a Friday and my children's Dad works from home. Will mean I can potentially start earlier and finish my work later. parent - Primary School  
parent - Primary School

More family time on a Friday afternoon, longer weekend so able to do more with the children

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

The benefits for children outlined by SBC are dubious at best. I see no benefits for the children (e-learning etc is something we can do in a symmetrical week).

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

Why not have actual half terms in Spring and Summer?

These long weekends are ridiculous. The kids don't get a proper break and are knackered, and if parents want to take a week off they have to take their kids out of school. Not to mention I know a place of work which instructs staff that they are not allowed to take single days annual leave, only full weeks; thus to take a long weekend off to be with your children necessitates taking a full fortnight's annual leave.

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

There are no benefits at all other than to the budgets the council follow. The younger children at school already find the days long without extending them anymore.

parent - Primary School

By losing pe teachers and leaving this to the general teaching staff you will be greatly reducing children's opportunitys in sport

parent - Primary School

For those families who are not affected by the work/childcare problem, I can see it as positive time for families. I can also see the benefits in terms of teachers meeting for training etc, and also for teachers and support staff to meet with outside agencies, e.g. speech therapy, for joint planning

parent - Primary School

I can't see how keeping the same hours will save money in the long run?  
Will this mean the end of in service days?

parent - Primary School  
parent - Primary School

Don't see any benefits at all for me and my child! Took me over a year to get my boss to agree to me leaving work early on a Friday. Now it seems like its going to have been a waste of time!

parent - Primary School

No benefit to me what so ever.

parent - Primary School

No benefit what do ever. Only children being punished to save SBC money.  
Completely inappropriate proposal

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School  
parent - Primary School

If it goes through - why 1.15pm? Why keep the lunch break?  
Is this for clubs/etc? If your child was not in a lunchtime club, then why not finish at 12.15pm? I personally would prefer to pick up a child at lunchtime.

parent - Primary School

Benefits for longer weekend. More daylight time at home in winter. Reduced cost of school diners/ packed lunch

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School



Personally for our family I am unable to see any advantages to this school week.

parent - Primary School  
parent - Primary School  
parent - Primary School

I think that there is going to be a huge impact on working parents especially in rural areas where there are less child care options available.

parent - Primary School  
parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School  
parent - Primary School

Gives parents a chance to do things on a week day with children when most days its too late in the day to do anything

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

My husband and I work and have 2 primary school aged children. Moving to an asymmetric week would cause significant disruption to all our lives.

parent - Primary School  
parent - Primary School

Not ideal for the children

Not long ago it was headline news that the UK education standards were not very good. Therefore, surely to help to improve education standards in the UK the school day should be increased.

parent - Primary School  
parent - Primary School

This will cost us more money as it will be an extra childcare session to pay for at after school club as the cost is based on number of sessions used not number of hours and minutes

parent - Primary School

I believe that it might save the council money but working parents will have to fork out for more for childcare - most employers wont offer flexitime. As I stated previously a number of parents have taken employment based around the current school day.

parent - Primary School

Arranging for extended child are on the long days may be difficult. My five year old starting school either very long days in a classroom

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

There appears to be so many ways to cut costs without impacting the services for those in the Borders. There is so much waste of resources. Make sure those employed by SBC are properly engaged in worthwhile tasks for the entire period of their working day. Make sure those that really do require SBC services get them whilst ensuring that those that don't don't. I'm sure that there are some savings to be made within Education however reducing teachers or teaching time is not the way to go.

parent - Primary School

What are 'in-service' days for then if not for teacher training? Why not have an extra week of teaching each year if teachers require so much training during term time?

parent - Primary School

Good if teachers not out of class during week.

parent - Primary School

I see no benefit in changing the the school week. In a modern society we are all supposed to be wealth generators. What do you think this will mean to the borders economy when 50% of the work force needs to reduce its hours.

What about the children who get free school meals? In these times of austerity a school meal might be the only good meal these children might get in a day.

I am aware we need to make cuts. I would suggest you look at schools that have a school roll less than 30. I would look at all public sector workers terms and conditions, pension and sick benefits. I would also like an increase of 10% of the council taxes across the board. And finally introduce a higher council tax band - a mansion tax.

parent - Primary School

It is fine where atleast 1 parent does not work however for us parents that do work these changes will result in another drain on our salaries. Re-negotiating working contract is not possible for everyone. I see no benefits in the proposed changes.

parent - Primary School  
parent - Primary School

speak with their peers at schools in our neighbouring authorities who already learn in the asymmetric week model.â€ ... All well and good but wouldn't it be better to provide this opportunity to the parents with whom you are consulting?

parent - Primary School

What happens to subjects like music and PE if the move reduces teacher numbers. Will they still be taught at the same levels? Does this mean that there will be less in service days as the teachers will be able to incorporate this training into their friday afternoon

parent - Primary School

I cannot reconcile how moving to an asymmetric week saves money or reduces the number of teachers.

parent - Primary School

Does your consultation simply comprise this form or are you going to come out and meet with families as if just the former, it's an exercise in box ticking only.

parent - Primary School

The proposal ignores the fundamental principles of Getting it Right for Every Child;

Specifically it fails to focus on improving outcomes for children, young people and their families based on a shared understanding of wellbeing;

Rather this is a one dimensional cost reduction strategy;

This and the absence of economic and social impact assessments render the consultation meaningless.

This proposal appears to be the preserve of the Director of Finance rather than the Director of Education.

parent - Primary School

In my work within retail banking we have similar training issues in that it can be difficult to plan and cover for staff when training is required. We open late each week on a Wednesday at 9.30 allowing us 1/2 hour training aside from this we have to plan as best we can utilising all resources so as not to disrupt services to the public. My point is that although an asymmetric week may solve your issues it creates headaches for many working parents across the borders.

parent - Primary School  
parent - Primary School

the only benefit is for the council to save money...there is no benefit to my child at all...just longer days...he would also lose some excellent experienced staff for his ricct, music and p.e. ...their will be no saving to heating or lighting as schools will be open longer.....

parent - Primary School

I see no benefits. There will be less teaching and even further pressure on the limited childcare options.

parent - Primary School

I see no benefits in this as it will lead children to believe that a 4 and a half day week is the working norm  
Don't have childcare costs so this isn't an issue for us but can see that this could be for some  
More concerned about NOT cutting teaching staff and especially music, PE and art teachers

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

None

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

Children who need support are struggling to receive this currently - how will this move improve things? In done countries children don't start school till 7. You are looking at increasing their school day from as young as 4. Maybe I am not understanding what you propose ...!?

parent - Primary School

No benefits whatsoever

parent - Primary School

Out of school clubs must be available at every school or transport provided to the nearest club.

parent - Primary School

I would also like to see a rural and town-based analysis of Friday pm activities that are accessible (both with transportation and affordability). Furthermore a comparison of citizenship and neighbourhood stewardship should considered ... At the very least a full risk analysis for loutish, unchecked, or bored behaviours on Friday afternoons should be undertaken.

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

There is no way I could get my daughter to school for 850 in the morning. We walk every day I would have to get up even earlier and probably have to change my shifts at work

parent - Primary School

I'm puzzled by the savings explanation, surely if the the teachers work longer during the week then they will still require to be paid per hours done?

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

Potentially beneficial in terms of increased family time. A half day off could allow for family outings or a long weekend (providing the half day was a Friday).

Contradicting my concern above, the half day off might prove beneficial for younger pupils, giving them an afternoon to rest.

parent - Primary School

I really don't see any benefits because teachers will still the same amount of preparation to do. Earlier mornings are going to affect my children and therefore the quality of their work

parent - Primary School

No benefits by moving to the asymmetric week for me only extra costs

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

There are going to be a lot of other costs incurred by parents which will have a financial impact on the child

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

It will suit my son as by Friday afternoon he is tired out and I earning capacity is at a low. Would be better to come out early and fit in more sports as struggle to fit in all the different things he would like to participate in.

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

The issue also presents challenges with regard to childcare. It would be helpful to understand what the economic impact will be in terms of parents having to pick up the tab for wrap around care, discussing flexible working with their employers etc.

What other alternatives have been considered to find the efficiencies? Make the case... don't just state one option, have a meaningless consultation and then present it as a done deal!

The lack of transparency in local government and lack of representative democracy is absolutely breathtaking.

parent - Primary School

Children are in school for a long time each day and get very

tired. I would value more time with my children on a Friday afternoon - could the day on a Friday finish even earlier?

parent - Primary School

Will there be a school dinner on a Friday after the new changes have been implemented.

Other than parents' childcare issues I can't see any problems. So long as my kids are happy at school and the extension to the school day is only half an hour.

parent - Primary School

With regards to Issue 1, this is a crucial point for our household. A loss of school time will mean we will have to find child care for the reduced hours at a time when SBC already do not support working families to the full capacity i.e childminding places not funded for 3yr olds. Our household will face paying more for child care in the face of rising costs and reduced wages and losing a proportion of our salaries to provide child care in covering this reduction in school hours. As a household we may have to look at claiming support benefit; we may be better off claiming support and having one parent not working and looking after 2 young children.

parent - Primary School

In the proposal SBC are saying that the need is to reduce staff budget. Rather than changing hours have SBC looked at rationalisation of number of schools. Why do we need separate Roman Catholic schools in this region. they must not be cost effective as the pupil numbers are lower. Surely if some of these schools were closed then savings must be gained from staff costs and building costs.

parent - Primary School

What are the benefits for primary schools?

parent - Primary School

I would prefer an earlier start eg 8.30 and keeping as close to 3pm as possible for a finish Mon-Thurs.

To be honest I still don't see the advantages of the change at all - it has not been explained clearly enough to us non-teaching/education staff.

parent - Primary School

The only benefit I can see is a financial benefit to the Council.

I understand times are tough, and tough decisions need to be made.

With this in mind, there is no reason why policy and finance can not be delivered directly from National Government to schools (indeed it works well in some areas of England).

The best decision from an educational point of view, and from a financial point of view for SBC, would be to dissolve the Education Department. It would be an incredible tough decision, but only because the majority of people who would need to make the decision would not have the courage to make themselves redundant.

Interestingly, Mike Russell has hinted at this in the past, and groups have recently discussed asking the question again.

Will SBC have the courage to even put this forward as an option? parent - Primary School

I understand the 'positives' of having an asymmetric school week but I feel that this will not solve the problems that my childrens school face. I think they need more teachers not less!!! Currently my child who is in primary 5 has had numerous teachers (too many to count) since August 2013 because of the original teacher being on long term sick leave. At the moment they are being taught 2 days per week by a teacher that is normally in the nursery and a teacher that needs to be overseen by a more senior teacher!!! I don't think this is supporting the curriculum for excellence!!!!

If there will be more collaboration between teachers I hope this allows them time to put on some after school activity because at my childrens school this is seriously lacking there is nothing.

As above i think this is a good step.

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School



I would like to see an Equality Impact Assessment carried out by the Council to recognise the impact this is likely to have in terms of socio economic status, and come up with solutions about how to mitigate this if the proposal is implemented.

I also fail to see how this proposal would 'save' money as the overall teaching hours would be the same.

Furthermore you mention more in-service may be undertaken on the 'free' afternoon - whereas again the same number of in service days per year would surely apply (or cost more to deliver) and therefore what difference does this make?

parent - Primary School

Do the benefits for primary outway the requirement for extra childcare costs?

parent - Primary School

Yes, we are both working parents who live outside a small village and have no relatives in the area. Childcare is an issue and this move will create extreme difficulties for us. In these constrained times I cannot see how this change can be managed by us without reducing our working hours. We are very unhappy about this prospect.

This move, the second time it has been tabled appears to me to be for the benefit of teachers and not the pupils, parents or other members of staff working in schools. How can substantial savings be made without a reduction in teachers hours. I know that there are difficult choices to be made but this seems to me to be an easy target which makes little in the way of savings and punishes pupils and parents

parent - Primary School

I am studying by way of distance learning and have a great deal of material to get through. My ability to do this will be compromised by loss of two hours on one afternoon which will not be compensated for by increasing the length of other days.

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

Personally friday for the short day suits me.

If the above questions are all answered satisfactorily, and there is no deterioration in educational quality and standards then I see no adverse effect, though I am seeing this from only my immediate perspective, and am keen that consultation is transparent and thorough.

parent - Primary School

Broadly concerns are split in two - those relating to transition and those relating to where we end up. The transition concerns are those which worry me most (eventually we will be able to avoid increased child care costs by re-jigging hours, but in the meantime we will lose money, similarly I do not wish my child to have to stop swimming because the lesson is cancelled, which if it hoes back half an hour, we willface a choice between swimming and beavers for another child).

I'm therefore extremely concerned at the speed at which this is being rushed through, and a 4 page questionnaire that asks me what are the issues, what are the comments, are you a parent and is this what you typed is not a proper consultation. It feels like lip-service being paid in order that you can tick the box before proceeding as you plan.

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

These times are same as they used to be back in the late 70`s....

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

I also find it offensive that we are discussing how to make  
£11 million in cuts rather than whether we should be making these  
cuts at all.

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

If the school day changes I think the day will seem a lot  
longer for the kids and it will also mean extra childcare costs for  
myself and many other parents.

parent - Primary School

As stated above childcare payment is a major issue for my  
family. Every penny is already accounted for.

parent - Primary School

Same as above

parent - Primary School

If pupils will be in school for the same number of hours, how

will an asymmetric week deliver any savings? It is not readily apparent  
how any of the benefits proposed from such a move will be realised

parent - Primary School

Transport needs to be taken into account to allow children to  
undertake after school activities on a Friday.

The supply of childcare across all ages needs to be assessed- for  
example the nursery in West Linton would not have capacity to  
provide wrap around care for a number of pupils at West Linton  
Primary and there is no alternative childcare provider for wrap around  
care in the village.

parent - Primary School

I don't feel strongly either for or against the change.

parent - Primary School

Dental and medical appointments can be made during this  
time, therefore no school time being used.

parent - Primary School

a benefit could be that the longer hours Mon - Thurs give more productive work hours for the children as a Friday afternoon is not a time when they work fully anyway due to golden time etc

parent - Primary School

There seems to be a culture of having staff training days during term time - rather than grouping all the training days over the summer (e.g. having all the days grouped together immediately after the last term ends?) I find this hard to justify when teachers have such long summer breaks. I am sceptical that the proposals for an assymetric week will remove all these frequent in-service days, there may be an apparent reduction in these but ultimately, I fear that working parents in particular will be the people who feel these changes most as they struggle to arrange childcare out of school hours.

parent - Primary School

How to manage to change work contract again

parent - Primary School

I am not clear from the level of information provided what the benefits there may be for my child's school education. There are lots of assumptions about the impact on teaching - but little evidence based information.

parent - Primary School

please provide feedback on the results of this 'consultation'

parent - Primary School  
parent - Primary School

I do not see any benefits for parents, only for the Council to save money - and the parents would incur extra expense.

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

None, I think this would have a negative effect in the Borders area on a Friday afternoon after witnessing this in Edinburgh for many years. Shopping/public areas etc with teenagers and older children 'hanging about' as they did not have keys to go home or wanted to hang around with friends causing upset especially to older generations.

parent - Primary School

I think the children would benefit from having a longer weekend and will feel fresher for the Monday morning and once they have adapted and are used to the longer days and break time it will be beneficial to their learning.

parent - Primary School

I BACK THIS MOVE 100%

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

I suggest an asymmetric week but by reducing hours in school to 4.5 days, not by lengthening 4 of the school days. Certainly for primary school children.

parent - Primary School  
parent - Primary School

It is an absolutely ridiculous, unnecessary and probably unconstitutional proposal outwith the mandate of the Scottish Borders Council and open to expensive legal challenge.

parent - Primary School  
parent - Primary School

I'm sure in built up areas this style of week can work better than rural communities, where parents inevitably need to travel further afield (ie Edinburgh) for work

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

If the children don't lose out on hours by extending the rest of the week other than issues above I am totally for it. should the rest of the week not be extended I would be totally against it.

parent - Primary School

I can think of no benefits to an asymmetric week. That's why you don't hear of it being done elsewhere apart from Edinburgh who continue to do it as that has been the norm for many many years. It will cause great headaches in terms of work/childcare costs. I would rather an increase in council tax than this. How can there be any benefits. Let's not gloss over the main facts here of massive budget cuts.

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

In Councils where they already have an asymmetric week a Friday morning is not hugely productive as it often involves assembly and golden time and as the free school meal children have their lunch at 12.15 there is actually very little time left in the day to do much teaching and learning.

I do not believe that any region currently working an asymmetric week would consider this as an option as it has no benefit to the children or to the parents or to the teaching and learning of our children. The only people that this may benefit are stay at home parents and some teachers without children.

parent - Primary School

Whilst I acknowledge the need for savings I am worried about the impact

parent - Primary School

We are in the fortunate position where we have flexible working patterns

parent - Primary School

In general supportive on early Friday finishes more than a mid week.

parent - Primary School

Can't actually see how this change would save any money

parent - Primary School

Kids will love it.

parent - Primary School

one child, if nursery and school start and finish times are not the same

parent - Primary School

Same as above

parent - Primary School

Kids spend a lot of time at school and I think it is nice for them to have

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

I feel that a slightly earlier start time in the morning could benefit working parents, who could get to work on time easier.

I feel that a longer weekend may actually benefit my children.

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

I cannot support this proposal - the Local Authority may be saving money this way, however parent's are being doubly penalised financially ie reduced salaries / increased childcare costs. I cannot see any benefits to the children either in this proposal - this is quite clearly being tabled for financial reasons only.

parent - Primary School

It would be brilliant to have kids home Friday afternoons.

parent - Primary School

I see no benefits. Friday afternoon is crucial in terms of education. Shorter lunchtimes will result in less opportunity for extra curricular activities in a rural area like the Borders, when children are largely prevented from staying on late at school due to transport arrangements.

It is a huge problem for working families who are already hard pushed at the moment, and I feel that what SBC is proposing is going to economically and educationally disadvantage families. Condensing school time will be hard on the pupils with longer working days and less time for socialising at lunchtimes.

parent - Primary School

All parents affected with this should be given the write to vote yes or no.

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

My only concern at the moment is looking at the proposed hours for primary school. At the moment school starts at 8.30 but I do not like the proposed start time of 8.50. I would prefer the 8.30 start time to remain in place.

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

i was looking at the job vacancy website and see a deputy head teacher was on a salary of 50,000 , that is ludicrous, altho the teacher has a diploma im guessing and children can be hard work that amount is something id earn in 9 year working part time, maybe the teachers sallarys should be reduced to an appropriate amount ,

parent - Primary School

A slightly longer day would be helpful for me as I have meetings in Hamilton, which is quite a distance away. I also like the idea of the children having a longer weekend for family events, playing, rest, etc

parent - Primary School

The only benefits I can see is for the council to save money.

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

On the other hand realise that there have to be cuts somewhere and if the teacher numbers can stay as they are - which is essential especially for our small school that have composite classes already and would suffer more, should there be a reduction

parent - Primary School

children get longer weekend. 2.5 days rather than the 2

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

Hopefully if children are in school for 4 longer days their homework would drop as at present we are finding it a struggle to get the dramatically increased amount of homework (P4) carried out before the due date. Young children are already very tired after a full day at school and this will only become worse with longer days.

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

I really don't see that the alleged benefits are real and measurable. e.g. "to increase opportunities for e-learning and shared teaching" and "making the transition from primary to secondary school easier" - Just all seems a bit "fluffy" - whereas the concerns are very real. Cutting teachers seems the easy way out - there must be savings that can be made elsewhere in the budget - Education is the most important service - these children are the future of our area I would like to see what level of cuts are being made in other services over the same period

parent - Primary School



Instead of working parents having to fork out more money for childcare to cover the Friday afternoon, it might be a good idea to offer a free after school club with various beneficial activities

parent - Primary School

Just a question...

You state that this will save SBC money in the long run as less teachers will be required? But why will there be less teachers if you are not actually reducing the teaching week but compressing it? Surely you still need the same amount of teachers?

parent - Primary School

I find the argument that it will result in reduced costs, by reducing the need for teacher cover during training unmade; teachers are salaried staff. Time outside standard contact-time hours should be available in a normal working week to cover these activities. In addition, even if costs were reduced this would be at the expense of increased costs for each family.

parent - Primary School

I can see NO BENEFITS for pupils or parents to the proposed changes. It is just a scheme to save money and ultimately reduce teacher numbers which can NEVER be a good thing for pupils and education in Scotland. I know working parents from Edinburgh and West Lothian who currently have an asymmetric week and they all hate it, I have not heard one parent with a positive comment. I also know a few childcare providers from those areas and they feel the same that it is a complete hassle and pain in the neck.

parent - Primary School

Benefits-teachers are happier....shame no one else is

parent - Primary School  
parent - Primary School

I'm also concerned regarding art, music and drama. We already don't have enough at Eyemouth Primary and the loss of teachers surely could mean losing the likes of the above. Not all children are academic and we need more of the above, not less.

parent - Primary School  
parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

I don't see any benefits, not for families with two working parents

parent - Primary School

There would be no benefits to my child if you change to asymmetric week PLEASE DONT DO THIS! My child finds learning hard enough with out you making days longer! I repeat PLEASE DONT DO THIS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

I think this is a fantastic idea, as coming from east Lothian myself and having this already in place I know it's great and the children love it aswell, I always thought it was odd not having half days etc down here, I hope this gets out in place, as there are a lot of benefits for family's, for example mothers are fathers will now be able to work longer hours during the week and maybe need less childcare, and on a Friday the children will enjoy starting the weekend earlier especially if they have a parent who works night shifts as they will get to see them for a few more hours before they go to work

parent - Primary School

I am a nurse and my husband is a police officer. We can only dream of having 2 weeks holiday at Christmas; another fortnight at Easter; 6 or 7 weeks in the summer; another week in October, and every weekend off.

I don't know of any occupation other than teaching which allows for 6 or 7 weeks holiday over the summer. Why can't a couple of weeks of this time be used for teacher training/ development?

parent - Primary School

The plan shows very little basis on fact, and has only vague ambitions to meet the objectives of reducing cost. The cost of the disruption needed to implement these changes (teachers working hours, parents working hours, bus company contracts, support staff/cleaners etc.) may well outweigh the benefits, which have not been clearly calculated.

parent - Primary School  
parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

Shorten the teachers holidays and use the time gained to for training and hold the meetings after the children finish. A normal working day is 8-5 why are teacher different.

parent - Primary School

I don't think this is beneficial to the children or parents will just create more stressed out families having to pay out more money to accommodate teachers

parent - Primary School

No objections to this change

parent - Primary School

Will be lovely to have a week day afternoon together/ a longer weekend with the children.

parent - Primary School

My children are tired mentally after day at school and not sure how valuable it will be educationally for primary children to have a longer day

parent - Primary School  
parent - Primary School

I think these hours are very silly, it is a school you are running not a business. What is wrong with the normal 9 to 3 hours. Don not really see how this saves money

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

Finishing earlier on a Friday means I can do family activities with my children (I don't work on a Friday)

parent - Primary School

Other than you saving money i can see no benefit.

parent - Primary School  
parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School

I can see no benefit. Secondary schools could operate aligned timetables without moving to an asymmetric week.

parent - Primary School

absolutely no benefit to children...my child enjoys his pe and music delivered by other teachers and time with his ricct teacher....all cuts which WILL AFFECT MY CHILDS EDUCATION....think some people at the region need to actually see how all these cuts are affecting every child in the scottish borders education

parent - Primary School

parent - Primary School & school support staff

Concern that my hours will be cut to reflect the altered working week.

parent - Primary School & school support staff

I think the longer day for infant classes are of no benifit, children are tired and not able to focus and learn at the end of the day, ( it would just be a babysitting service), 8.50 start would not benefit teaching starting any earlier.

parent - Primary School & school support staff

parent - Primary School & school support staff

Daft idea.	parent - Primary School & school support staff
Slashing teacher numbers can only be a backwards step...	parent - Primary School & school support staff
	parent - Primary School & school support staff
biggest cost the amount of paid holidays teachers get should be addressed. NO OTHER PROFESSION HAS THAT AMOUNT as a nurse I get half and my Job is equally stressful and demanding. I also Never trust a council or Councillor.	parent - Primary School & school support staff parent - Primary School & school support staff
I can see benefits around arranging my working week from Mon-Thur to allow me to have less child care cost, can spend Friday afternoon with my child and they can have more direct teaching time monday to friday	parent - Primary School & school support staff
Aware other la areas use this asymmetric week and always felt it sounds reasonable and I know my children would love to feel they have shorter week at school with longer weekends. It would help when planning holidays etc as we often take our children out early on fridays	parent - Primary School & school support staff parent - Primary School & school support staff parent - Primary School & school support staff
none	
I'm concerned about the hungry anger kids get when needing fed, if they have a long bus journey home this will be a problem.	parent - Primary School & school support staff parent - Primary School & school support staff
My priority is that the quality of education is not affected	parent - Primary School & school support staff
ICT needs improved to cope with the demands of delivering the curriculum differently.	parent - Primary School & school support staff
This will not work in the borders as it is too wide spread ! the proposal provided the standard of schooling was unaffected. Friday afternoon is, historically, the least productive part of the week and so skipping it may actually improve things.	parent - Primary School & school support staff
	parent - Primary School & school support staff
Chance for staff to work together not at end of school day. Active Schools Co-ordinators/local clubs could facilitate activities for school during the half day. Schools need to make sure the asymmetric week times match the AM nursery start time and PM nursery finish time as closely as possible.	parent - Primary School & school support staff

Moving to an asymmetric week will provide the opportunity for more cross school activities such as football to occur on a Friday afternoon. This will also teachers a chance to meet on a more regular basis with colleagues within the same region.

parent Primary School & Teacher - SBC

parent Primary School & Teacher - SBC

parent Primary School & Teacher - SBC

There are many questions about details, mainly the impact on childcare arrangements due to the limited clubs and after-school care available at the moment - also the additional cost.

I am also concerned at how busy the town will be when primary and secondary all finish around the same time on a Friday, from a safety point of view for younger children, traffic and buses.

The main benefit is the amount of time for children doesn't change and they receive full education entitlement. As a teacher, there will be many timetabling issues to work through, although not an easy task, this can be done! And the savings are made without too much impact on children and other aspects of education services. Savings have to made somewhere and this does seem an option, even with it's difficulties.

parent Primary School & Teacher - SBC

parent Primary School & Teacher - SBC

parent Primary School & Teacher - SBC

I have a slight concern that as a teacher we may end up working even more hours. However, I do think that having a Friday afternoon for professional development with colleagues will be beneficial.

parent Primary School & Teacher - SBC

parent Primary School & Teacher - SBC

I think the fact that after school clubs can be done on a Friday afternoon will be a good thing and will make it more accessible for more kids to attend things that would otherwise be done in the evening (when this can conflict with bedtime).

parent - Primary School - employer in Scottish Borders

None we should be lengthening the school week in line with the working day of most employees in public and private sector.

parent - Primary School - employer in Scottish Borders

If families choose to go away for weekends they can now get away earlier to avoid traffic.

It also allows children in the winter months to have activity time with parents/carers in daylight for an extra day.

parent - Primary School - employer in Scottish Borders

I'm confident a decision has already been made and this is an utter waste of time.

parent Primary School & Teacher - other

I like the idea of an afternoon which kids could use for outdoor activity (lack of sunlight during Winter months) and possibility of a better work life balance for parents if one parent has to be able to collect kids on a Friday afternoon.

parent Primary School & Teacher - other

parent Primary School & Teacher - other

1. No evidence was provided for the statement:

"There is a consensus among all our primary and secondary head teachers that an asymmetric week would allow for greater collaboration between primary and secondary teachers and enhance joint planning around key aspects of Curriculum for Excellence"

Until evidence can be provided to support this statement it is meaningless.

parent - Secondary School

parent - Secondary School

Could be a health benefit if more sports/activities organised for free afternoon - but who would provide this?

parent - Secondary School

I feel this new week has a half day on Friday just so the council gain full support from young pupils and could use this as a way to make even more changes to their education.

parent - Secondary School

I think it would be a good thing to be inline with other regions in scotland

parent - Secondary School

parent - Secondary School

Can see huge child care issues for primary school parents.

parent - Secondary School

parent - Secondary School

I feel that employers views should also be sought as most large employers in the borders currently with working parents hours will be unable to change these without suffering effects within their own workforce.

parent - Secondary School



It's not going to benefit the children and it's going to make their education even more of a disadvantage. This is just a money saving scheme that has not been thought out well. Get rid of all the needless managers/clerical staff and that will save thousands for proper education for the kids. This should be number one priority as SBC is letting kids down in their education.

parent - Secondary School

It appears that this proposed solution is being presented as a positive development for consolidating non-teaching time but the reality is that it is driven by a need to reduce expenditure on education. Unless there is an admission that things are currently organised inefficiently and teaching resource is excessive then this proposal would not be made if the budget requirement was not driving it.

parent - Secondary School

parent - Secondary School

This was consulted on only a couple of years ago and was rejected. What has changed?

parent - Secondary School

parent - Secondary School

I am totally disenchanted at the way SBC behaves towards its resident 'stakeholders'. The poet Don Paterson, in an open letter about Creative Scotland, described "the empty busy work of visible consultation", and that is what happened when SBC 'consulted' the residents of West Linton about the location of the new primary school and the availability of playing fields to the community. SBC entirely disregarded an overwhelming local opinion and did just exactly what it had intended from the start. I fear the same is true about this apparent consultation. And yet, I participate in it because it is MY CHILD'S EDUCATION that is at stake.

parent - Secondary School

Children coming home in dark during winter

parent - Secondary School

Happy for asymmetric week to go ahead

parent - Secondary School

Would allow 33 period week and more flexibility in timetabling

parent - Secondary School

It will cause many problems for working parents. Also school should also be about preparing children for the future. What message are we sending by implying an early finish in a Friday is the norm.

parent - Secondary School

having just changed timetables/school times another change so soon is not helpful

parent - Secondary School  
parent - Secondary School

parent - Secondary School

parent - Secondary School

Undoubtedly the cost saving is a major benefit, however the opportunity to offer more courses must also be a benefit as some schools have limited IT and language course available.

parent - Secondary School

No benefits to the quality of education have been outlined as yet!

parent - Secondary School

parent - Secondary School  
parent - Secondary School

WILL THERE BE ACTIVITIES ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON FOR SPORTS AND CLUBS?

parent - Secondary School

This is false economy and cannot see any benefits.

parent - Secondary School

would school transport allow lunch to be eaten onboard?

parent - Secondary School

This decision makes a mockery of the so-called previous consultation, the results of which have been ignored.

parent - Secondary School

I think it's an excellent idea, giving teachers more time to consult with each other, and giving the students time to do their homework on a Fri afternoon before the weekend begins.

parent - Secondary School

Like the fact that teachers will be out of the classroom less

parent - Secondary School

parent - Secondary School

This appears to be a 100% cost cutting exercise are there tangible , clear educational objectives and benefits?

parent - Secondary School

If there was to be any movement made towards looking at

clubs being offered, ie: sport, drama, art, music, gardening, cookery, then I would be positive and supportive.

parent - Secondary School

The main issue for me is how will pupils remain engaged in class for longer periods of time each day. The engagement of pupils is often determined by the engagement of teachers. If they feel their day is longer or more crammed how will the pupils react.

Where is the evidence that this will enhance the pupils' learning experience.

I do not see any benefits

parent - Secondary School

parent - Secondary School

there are no benefits from our perspective. only downsides, in the same way as the curriculum for excellence has cut the number of subjects studied and created a certificate that has little or at best unknown value to universities.

parent - Secondary School

I do not see this move as a benefit

parent - Secondary School

parent - Secondary School

Would like to see a breakdown in the saving potential.

Can't really see this proposal making such a big difference.

parent - Secondary School

parent - Secondary School

I like the idea of having Friday afternoon flexibility. It would allow for more potential weekends away as a family

parent - Secondary School

parent - Secondary School

I believe overall it would be better for the children. It can be chaotic when the school ends at different times during the week especially with different lunchtime lengths. This proposal gives the benefit of a clear routine and allows children to finish early on a Friday which I know that my daughter would prefer.

parent - Secondary School

You are proposing the asymmetric week as being a means by which you can reduce costs by reducing the number of teachers.

In my view teachers already have a very high workload (especially when you include their support for extra-curricular activities), and while an asymmetric week may enable more efficiency in teaching development (which may be a very good thing) I do not think you should be putting this in to place to reduce teacher numbers. Instead your justification for asymmetry should be to improve quality by letting teachers improve the quality of their work, and their work-life balance. In this way you may continue to find the level of goodwill from teachers that is necessary to support the wider and extra-curricular activities of our schools.

In short: I am firmly against any reduction in teacher numbers and will not support proposals which are framed in such a way as to enable teacher number reductions.

This seems like a good plan, given the situation.

parent - Secondary School  
parent - Secondary School  
parent - Secondary School  
parent - Secondary School

An asymmetric week does not set a realistic impression of life after school for pupils. Working life includes being in your place of work on a Friday afternoon!

parent - Secondary School  
parent - Secondary School  
parent - Secondary School

parent - Secondary School - school support staff

parent - Secondary School - school support staff  
parent - Secondary School - school support staff  
parent - Secondary School - school support staff

I do not see any benefits and only see. Negative issues with this and feel that the other changes were negative as well affecting lots of parents needing to look at child care issues and loss of wages.

It used to be that when you moved to high school you were expected to have a longer day now it has turned around and wanting kids to only go 4 1/2 days.

There must be different ways to look at the short fall.  
~~Longer days, shorter breaks, some students with additional~~  
needs will have great difficulty in coping. I do not see any real benefits from the point of view of the student or parents. We have only been given one example of the asymmetric week. Other

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

parent - Secondary School & Teacher in SBC

parent - Secondary School & Teacher in SBC

a clear benefit for school staff is the aligned non contact time on a Friday afternoon which could be factored into the WTA

parent - Secondary School & Teacher in SBC

Benefit from more opportunities for collegiate working across and within schools/learning communities.

parent - Secondary School & Teacher in SBC

How do the proposed changes save the council money?

parent - Secondary School & Teacher in SBC

parent - Secondary School & Teacher in SBC  
parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

I wish it to be noted that I am against the move to the asymmetric week.

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

If this gets the go ahead. How are the school buses going to work on the friday???? Doesn't work just now as it is

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

ABSOLUTELY NO BENEFIT TO WORKING PARENTS OR CHILDREN. HOMEWORK AND AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ARE ALREADY HARD ENOUGH WITHOUT MAKING THE CHILDREN FINISH SCHOOL LATER

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

Think that learning will not be affected. Children are often tired by Friday afternoon so tend to do practical activities. Great for families who can get a long weekend away especially as so many parents finish at lunchtime on a Friday.

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

It only appears to benefit council and teachers not parents or pupils

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

in a world of austerity it is paramount for education to work in a more financially viable way in relation to budget. Having teachers available more often without being taken out of classes for training will

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

I can't see any benefits other than for the council.

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

Clearly thought up by teachers for teachers. These people are so out of touch with the reality of the world outside schools. Not everyone can finish at 1.15 and go home to look after their children. Just pass the financial burden to the rest of the working world as usual.

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

Don't see any benefits, more will our children education suffer?

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

I have nephews who live in Edinburgh and this works for them.

I am a very fortunate parent who works from home so my children know that there is a safe environment for them to come home too if they were to finish earlier on a friday - most children are not so lucky.

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

Feel that if this imposed its only a matter of time before the council say we havent saved enough then move to 22.5 week, which would be hugely detrimental to our children in the borders.

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

As above, am very concerned about my youngsters getting the best education! Am Also concerned about what will the high school kids do on fri afternoon!!! Hang around town!! No childcare for then! I have first experience if this from working in Penicuik, the locals dreaded fri afternoons, as did the shops as gangs if youths hung around

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

I do not believe any consultation with parents will be listened to in any way whatsoever and believe this decision had already been made. That defeats the purpose, if this was a true consultation there would be a parental vote.

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

Really need to guarantee appropriate teaching staff are in place. Peebles High has far too many temporary teachers and cover teachers from other subjects. If this asymmetric week sorts this out - then good, if not then bad!!!

I cannot believe cutting teaching staff can be beneficial in the long run. I read your arguments but it would suggest you've been overstuffed or very inefficient with their use which is puzzling as all schools seem understaffed both Primary and secondary.

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

I feel our family will benefit greatly from the slightly extended weekend with the early finish on a Friday. The staggered finish times enable me to pick my children up from primary and secondary schools respectively.

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

NO BENEFITS .

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

I can see no benefits.

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School  
parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

I saw an advert for a deputy head job in The Berwickshire High School. I cannot believe how much you are paying just one teacher for 35 hours a week. Instead of cutting school hours to save money, cut the big pay hikes and keep our children in school and learning.

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

The proposed changes will actually suit our circumstances better than the current situation.

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

Apart from Childcare issues-I don't think there would be a problem. As long as the child is receiving the same amount of learning hours and are given the best education possible. Hopefully less supply teachers!!!

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School  
parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

Great if you claim benefits and have no childcare. Win win for them. Why should working parents be penalized. Also kids will have less time in education including very frequent I service days.

Don't agree

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School  
parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

Longer weekend for kids - great  
Home in light in winter once a week - great

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

I see no benefits. The claimed offering of classes across the high schools does not take into account transport issues in a rural area.

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School



It works in other areas so I support the changes as it suits my personal circumstances. I support any change that means teachers are removed from the classroom less than at present

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

I can see no benefits. This is just a cost cutting exercise on your behalf and to fit it in with the new Scottish Gov't curriculum. This consultation is just a paper exercise you have made up your mind that this is happening. It is very sad that an area which has had such a high standard of education is being forced to do this. I am deeply disturbed that it is to my children's detriment.

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

I'm not against an asymmetric week in principal but I don't understand how savings are to be made just by changing to this model. Pupils and teachers will still be in school the same amount of time. Aligning timetables will make for LESS efficient staffing because schools cannot operate on a "one size fits all" timetable; furthermore, technology cannot be relied upon to enable distance learning. Where are the proposed savings supposed to come from???

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

The key benefit listed on previous page, from SBC, was the freeing up of a Friday afternoon for training etc. The key requirement is to cut teacher numbers to save money. It is unclear as to how a change to the timetable will achieve this.

No meeting at Kelso High School planned - why not?

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

benefits - none , not to me anyhow

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

I'm sure the kids will enjoy an early finish on Friday but if implemented you will make your savings and all the parents employers will have to in effect pay for them by having to take time off their work. It add an additional child care burden. Why not lobby the Scottish Parliament to make a half day for parents too!

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

I would welcome the asymmetric week as my children are very tired by Friday afternoon.

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

I can see the benefits for secondary schools in particular in terms of timetable alignment and resulting cost savings. Definitely preferable to reducing teacher numbers or course availability. Bigger issue for primary schools due to greater need for childcare.

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School  
parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

It is a nonsense have an online survey for the pupils it is quite obvious they will not be adverse to the idea! Has any thought been put into working parents, it is unlikely they will find childcare for just 2 hrs on a Friday afternoon. I strongly believe this is an infringement of my children's right to a fair education as the implications on them far outweigh the benefits!

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

Friends in both Edinburgh and East Lothian have found that their children have benefitted by being home earlier on a Friday enabling them to attend extra-curricular activities then rather than later on in evenings after school e.g swimming. I see this as a positive move.

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

It is not clear to me where the potential savings are meant to come from? How will teacher numbers be reduced?

Will teachers still be allocated in service training days in addition to Friday afternoons?

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

I see no benefits of an asymmetric week

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

I do not think that the issues that this can cause with parents who are working full time has been taken into consideration properly. The change will result in a large number of people requiring extra child care for the same period of time on the same days which, in small border towns, may not be able to be met by the existing child care facilities.

I can see that this may save money for the council but perhaps some consideration should be given to the wider working public by perhaps providing after school care on Fridays within the schools.

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

I can see many benefits for the teachers. Time to consult and plan with colleagues will have a positive impact on our children's learning.

The fact that there will be more consistency through the week for the children is good as the staff will take their non contact time when the children have gone home.

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

Disruption to Borders Employers who are going to be faced with major staffing problems on Friday afternoons

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

Children will get the added advantage of being able to study a wider range of subjects

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

A unified approach across the region can improve efficiencies. But quality of service not cuts should be the motivating factor.

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

I do not see any benefits to the Pupils, or the Parents, by this change only a benefit to the Council purse, which is obviously the objective.

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

It is well documented that the percentage of youth crime is much higher on Friday afternoons where there are half days in school. This is going to lead to an increased risk for children and young people to become involved antisocial behaviour and be at greater risk of becoming involved in offending behaviour. I realise that not all young people will be faced with this - however the risks are greater for a minority. I believe that school attendance will drop off on Fridays - as it is 'only a half day so why bother going in at all' could be an outcome from creating an asymmetric week.

How are families who work fulltime Mon - Fri going to manage with what are already expensive and scarce child care resources in the Scottish Borders? This is going to place families under financial and emotional pressure.

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

I see NO benefit to this change

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

I work part time flexibly so can accommodate the changes. I will benefit from the longer school day as I will be able to work slightly longer these days.

benefit to the family longer weekends eg can get away friday afternoon if having a weekend away.

None

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

I am worried that the council has not considered the implications for working parents who will be unable to find childcare in this area as there is very little provided at the moment and the rules surrounding the setting up of out of school clubs are prohibative.

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

I think having a half day on a Friday will benefit the children and families as they could get away for a long weekend and parents can work later without as much need for childcare on the longer days.

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

In principal I agree with an asymmetric week but there are the few niggles mentioned above to think about. I think it will be good for the children to get a longer rest period over the weekend. It may even help with attendance as parents won't need to take children out of School for weekend breaks etc

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

I don't think an extra 30 minutes or so added to the school day will make much of a difference to the school day. Benefit for me would be the longer weekend.

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

I see no benefit for an asymmetric week:

It does not prepare children for a working week.

It impact on parents jobs

It impacts on family finances.

It will cost the government more on child credits for childcare.

It impacts teachers, creating job risk and longer working days and workload for no extra benefits.

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

I honestly don't see any benefits to an asymmetric week. It hasn't been presented by the council to be of an educational benefit at all to the children. The council has sold it as a cost-saving exercise and I'm afraid it appears that this is all it is. Another cost cut to front line service. Friends in other council areas who already have this type of arrangement say that it is of no benefit to the children and Friday has become a day when nothing gets down. Kids go to school for Golden time.

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

Maybe this works in city areas where there are after school clubs and creches but in a rural area where employers are a bit less flexible how can this work for anyone other than the stay at home mother or father. It appears that its ok for the council to apparently save money but it doesn't matter that many families will be worse off at the very time they need more money in the present climate. I think SBC need to get their heads out of the sand

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

From a child's point of view- Friday afternoon off

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

This would be brilliant - I have experience of this in another locality and it was excellent for parents and children alike

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

I would love this, it would give me more time with the children when I am free and would cut down on child care costs for the rest of the week.

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

The curriculum for excellence is in my opinion a disaster, and includes many unnecessary subjects. Cut some of these out and you could just shorten the school week to 4 days.

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

i see no benefit to the children's education to warrant a change in the school week

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

attending Wilton support centre and mainstream schools. Travelling is the biggest part leaving home already at 750am and not home until 4.15pm these days are long enough without making them longer!!!!

Also how do you intend splitting the placement as they lose an

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

I like the idea of a half day on a Friday for the children - it could be a time to catch up with homework and see friends.

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

The council is already scrimping by making all the pupils use the same bus route, turning what would be a 40 minute journey into a 90 minute journey. If they want to save money by switching to an asymmetric week, then they have to be willing to pay more for a reasonable standard of school transport.

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

Having seen this tried elsewhere I think it is generally not terribly successful although I am aware of the budget constraints the council is facing, I think it is a drastic step to take and would want to be reassured that my children do not lose out on any lesson time . I imagine that absences on a Friday morning increase also.

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

I think it's different for high school pupils as they can cope with longer days.

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

I believe the police and fire brigade in edinburgh are busy on a Friday afternoon due to unsupervised children causing issues.

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

i dont see any benefits because more money would have to be spent on transport for all schools finishing at the same time which is the problem schools had with the 33 period week.

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

#NAME?

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School  
parent of children in Primary & Secondary School  
- school support staff - SBC

Do we still have In-service days

Can't see any benefit whatsoever. Staffing is currently running at bare minimum and an extra 3 periods a week for each teacher would increase my workload by nearly 15%. This will not be taken into account and will finally drive good support staff elsewhere.

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School  
- school support staff - SBC

Will any people lose their hours or jobs, will the children miss out on PE , music etc

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School  
- school support staff - SBC

I don't really see how the move to an asymmetric week will help to save money. The reason given on the website is that teachers will be able to do training on Friday afternoons. As the P.T. at a secondary school, I can attest that staff in my faculty undertake training whenever it is available. Almost always, the training is organised by someone outside SBC and is scheduled to take place at some time other than Friday afternoon. It would be useful to have more information about how the proposed change would result in

I am a parent - both Primary and Secondary school & Teacher SBC

As a teacher in a primary school in SBC my concerns are:

- the day is too long for young children
- Friday afternoons will always be filled with meetings, as Wednesday evenings are at the moment, therefore when would there be time for planning and preparation given that the time before and after school would be reduced with earlier start times and later finish times
- I cannot start earlier or finish later than I currently do due to my own childcare constraints

I am a parent - both Primary and Secondary school & Teacher SBC

I am a parent - both Primary and Secondary school & Teacher SBC

How will activities taking place at lunchtimes be able to take place when the time available is cut. Bearing in mind that most children have to be bused home and cannot stay after school?

I am a parent - both Primary and Secondary school & Teacher SBC

Children like the idea of Friday afternoons off but in theory it will only be a hour or two different . We rarely go away for weekends as we both work . So I can really see NO benefits .

I am a parent - both Primary and Secondary school & Teacher SBC

Would be good for independent study for High School Pupils when they are not too tired after a full day at School. I would be concerned about cutting time for lunchtime activities as Kids need to eat if they are doing a lunchtime activity and if this time was shortened. These activities are less likely to happen and teachers would need to make sure pupils eat.

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

if this is managed well and engages all stakeholders, then there is a benefit for this approach.

have other approaches been looked at including -school closure, use of outside agencies to deliver aspects of the curriculum - languages, ICT, design & technology, PE?

- changing the school year to have smaller 'chunks' of time and also use of summer/Easter school approaches for those subject areas that some pupils may want to study but are not viable?

quality of leadership & management - the move to 'joint headships'.

Has the impact of this been reviewed and lessons learned from this approach? This could be an important barometer in how successful the move to an asymmetric week will be.

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

parent of children in Primary & Secondary School

I am a school student

I am a school student

I see this new asymmetric week as a great benefactor from the point of view of a pupil. It means that in the winter months, when I get home on a Friday, it will be light so I can outdoors and go on my bike e.t.c.

I am a school student

It has huge benefits for staff to get together across their LC.

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders



After previously working in an authority that has an asymmetric week I can not praise this pro forma enough. The time used to discuss issues and meet with colleagues was very valuable this is greatly missing from the current set up in SBC. The time is also used for planning, and in my case allowed much better teaching and learning to take place in the classroom.

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

How is this saving money for primary schools?

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

A longer afternoon is not particularly productive.

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

Where this type of school week has been successful, for example in Edinburgh, "a whole industry has grown up" around the provision of childcare and after-school activities on the 'short day'(quoting an SBC SEO). SBC must understand that this will not happen in many areas in the Borders where pupils are in small village primaries and there is not the number of pupils to make private enterprises interested in setting up Friday afternoon opportunities.

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

Friday pm is a ridiculous time to expect staff to start doing development work of any kind.

Staff stress levels and absence will soar - teaching 7 classes a day with a 40 min break is not sustainable long term.

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

Excellent opportunity for teachers to hold meetings and access training on the free afternoon rather than after school when most people are tired and time is limited.

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

I see no benefit whatsoever and I think learning will suffer.

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

The Friday afternoon could be used for some CAT sessions but would like some for personal teacher development time then. Better for staff development both in and out of school on a Friday afternoon. This would allow for joined up working between schools for a more effective use of resources. Ultimately it will be a catalyst for allowing other proposed money saving ideas to be put forward to go

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

It would appear that "getting rid" of teachers is the latest fad in SBC. Would it not be better to try and improve pupil education? We are going through a recession and one of the ways out of the recession we are told is through education. Reducing teacher numbers is not the best way to do this.

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

None

Stop trying to put a positive spin on this decision. It is a dire development which will have a negative impact on the students. It is insulting to the public/voters that you even pretend that the students will have more choice. With the distances between schools in the Borders, you are kidding yourselves. At least have the decency to acknowledge that students will not have as good an education as in times where there was more money, more teachers, more genuine choice, better resources, more readily available, high-quality training options for staff, better buildings, more readily available transport to sporting events, heads of departments, time to develop high-quality courses, smaller class sizes, need I go on? Yes, better support for those with additional needs, better support for those with emotional problems, teachers working without fear of losing their jobs, students able to take the courses that will best prepare them for jobs or further study. Would you like your children to be in school now or ten years ago? I understand the financial constraints, but call a spade a spade.

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

600 hours will fit in with the new times of school finishing which will make pick up and drop off more practical for parents with both nursery and school aged children. eg. 8:45 - 11:55am and 12:15 - 3:25pm

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders  
I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

A lack of clarity for EMPLOYEES from their employers at SBC. No questions to be answered, no 'negative thoughts' allowed (this actually said to a colleague on a working group) and some headteachers telling their staff to promote a rosy corporate message to parents. Please don't dress it up as an opportunity for collaboration or CfE, we know money needs to be saved.

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

4 long days and one shorter day is not educationally advantageous for pupils learning. The assumption is also being made that staff will volunteer for what is effectively a longer working week for them if all meetings are on Friday afternoons.

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

The shorter lunch time will have a huge impact on extra curricular activities.

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders  
I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

It should enhance the collaborative working that we are moving towards.

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

facilitate more collaborative work with associated primaries, as well as with same discipline colleagues from other schools - provided we are allowed to!

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

It Would be good if schools could choose which day was their short day to fit in with their staffing.

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders  
I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

The extra stress of having to work without any RICCT time during the week. At least now there is the chance to respond relatively quickly to issues arising, if there are parental concerns waiting until a Friday afternoon may not be appropriate.

Is this another case of SBC being steered towards becoming like the Lothians by a Director who won't even be here to oversee the changes but the a £250,000 redundancy package is a slap in the face to all those ANA's who are losing hours but play such a vital role. It was tried with holidays and that was proved to be a failure surely SBC should concentrate on doing what is best for us as a rural region

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders  
I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

What about those teachers who don't work on Fridays?

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

Schools should be looking to start between 8.30 and 8.45.  
This then allows for parents to drop off and be in work on time

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

There is very little practical information on how this is going to work available at the moment. So it seems that this consultation is merely a paper exercise because to get relevant feedback from the stakeholders more information to make a decision is required.

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders  
I am an employer operating in Scottish Borders

It is just moving the financial problem from one area to another?  
Why not just add the extra hours over the 4 x days and no pupils attend on the Friday! There would be no need for transportation costs on the Friday, and teachers could have there in service days! Management meetings and preparation work completed! AND THEY WOULD STILL HAVE A SHORTER WORKING WEEK THAN MOST PEOPLE WHO HAVE TO WORK HARD AND PAY THEIR WAGES- but teachers and management should be working in the school on the Friday! Not working from home? SNP management need this time face to face with them in their place of business to operate professional and effectively.

I am an employer operating in Scottish Borders

This proposed change has wider implications than just for the schools and needs to be thought through and cognisance taken of the effect on the wider employment sector.

I am an employer operating in Scottish Borders

This is not a female friendly policy and is indirectly discriminating against the main carers who are generally mothers.

I am an employer operating in Scottish Borders

Will you not have to pay the Teachers the same if they are remaining at school on Friday Afternoon. Will the teachers get a reduced pay and therefore pension.

I am an employer operating in Scottish Borders  
I am an employer operating in Scottish Borders

This is yet more cuts that will further destroy the quality of education in Scotland. We used to be the best - we are now one of the worst.

Well done for standing up and being counted. You have failed yourselves and the youth of today and generations past. Pat each other on the back - you are good at that.

I am an employer operating in Scottish Borders  
Other

The government at the moment is supposedly all about helping parents get back to work. How can this possibly help by restricting their possible working hours even more. Not everyone can afford to pay for out of school care!!!!

Other  
Other  
Other

An asymmetric week may benefit parents as with a longer working day they may not need to leave work early or pay for as much after-school child care.

Other

At the moment I am unable to see a benefit in it and I think about is having to change my working arrangements. I know Edinburgh schools work an asymmetric week and have done for years and have not heard any complaints. It will just be the transition that causes the main issues.

Other

From your proposed longer days I don't see how they are longer as when I went to primary it was 8.45 - 3.15 and secondary was 8.50-3.40. So it's hardly a longer day

Other

Other

Other

Other

Sack a leader and save more money.

there is also a serious lack of registered childcare with availability in Kelso, which would result in parents resorting to the use of unregistered childcare (nursery childcare does not suit everyone, due to their restrictive open/close times.)

Other

On the whole I would welcome the change, as long as SBC can give a guarantee that class time, and the quality of lessons/learning, and staff/pupil ratios are at least maintained at the current level, if not enhanced by the change.

I would hope that the proposed 1/2 day would be a Friday, to allow families to extend their weekend and make the most of their free time together (e.g. extended weekend visits).

Other

Other

Other

Other