

Proposed Change to the School Day at Twickenham Primary Academy

Dear Parents and Carers,

We're writing to let you know about an important proposal, led by **Omnia Learning Trust**, to slightly shorten the school day at **Twickenham Primary Academy** from **September 2026**.

As part of our Trust-wide approach, Omnia has reviewed the length of the school day across all its schools to ensure consistency, fairness, and wellbeing for both pupils and staff. While all Omnia schools are proud to offer slightly extended days, Twickenham Primary Academy's day is unique because it was originally set as a **planning condition** when the school opened in 2015. At the time, this was introduced by the local authority to help manage traffic in the surrounding area.

Now that we are a fully established and successful school, **Omnia Learning Trust has made the decision to apply for a formal amendment to this planning condition**. This change would bring TPA's school day more in line with other Omnia schools — while continuing to provide an exceptional, high-quality learning experience for all our pupils.

Existing Planning Condition (2015)

Planning Reference: **Condition U08194 NS21** – Staggered start/finish times

Full Planning Reference 16/0113/FUL

Reason: To ensure the free flow of vehicular and pedestrian movement in the locality and to safeguard residential amenity.

Our Proposal (2026)

The Trust will be applying to the **London Borough of Richmond upon Thames (LBRUT)** to amend this planning condition and slightly reduce the length of the school day.

The final decision rests with the local authority, not the school or Trust, but we believe we have a strong case for change.

Rationale for Change

We now have a **School Streets camera** that restricts traffic between **8:20–9:00am** and **3:30–4:15pm**. These measures continue to manage local congestion effectively, meaning no adjustments to traffic control are required.

The school is now **fully established** with all year groups open and consistent travel patterns in place, **rather than the projected estimates used when planning consent was first issued**.

We employ **35 members of staff**, very close to the 36 forecast at opening, and remain strongly committed to **sustainable travel**, with only **10 on-site parking spaces**.

TPA continues to be the **only local school offering fully staggered start and finish times**, helping to ease congestion and support the local community.

Aligning our school day with other **Omnia Learning Trust schools** will ensure greater **fairness, wellbeing and consistency** across staff teams, while also supporting recruitment and retention of high-quality teachers.

The proposed adjustment also reflects **Department for Education guidance** on the recommended minimum length of the school week, ensuring we continue to meet and exceed national expectations while maintaining a balanced day for pupils.

The change will bring greater **efficiency in the use of staff time and resources**, reducing unnecessary fatigue while maintaining the high standards of education and enrichment that families expect.

TPA has achieved and maintained Gold TfL Travel Status since 2019 — one of only 1,000 schools in London to do so — recognising our leadership in promoting active, sustainable travel choices. There are 3250 schools in London.

The data shows 2015/16 comparison (when the school opened) with 2024/25 comparison.

Data is pupil AND staff:

Travel Type	2024/25 Survey	2015/16 Survey
Active Travel	73.64%	43.18%
Walking	37.23%	13.64%
Scooting	14.67%	18.18%
Cycling	15.76%	4.55%
Park and Stride	5.98%	6.82%
Sustainable Travel	8.97%	18.18%
Rail / Overground	0.54%	2.27%
Public Bus	8.15%	9.09%
School Bus / Taxi	0.27%	0%
Car Share	0%	6.82%
Car / Motorcycle	17.39%	38.64%

Proposed School Day (from September 2026/27)

Year	Soft Start	End Time	Pick-Up Location
Reception	8:45–9:00am	3:30pm	EYFS Playground
Year 1	8:45–9:00am	3:30pm	Glass Doors
Year 2	8:45–9:00am	3:35pm	Glass Doors
Year 3	8:45–9:00am	3:35pm	EYFS Playground
Year 4	8:45–9:00am	3:40pm	Glass Doors
Year 5	8:45–9:00am	3:40pm	EYFS Playground
Year 6	8:45–9:00am	3:40pm	EYFS Playground

Impact and Solutions

Reduced Soft Start Time

Breakfast Club will continue to open from **7:45am** and extend its finish time to **8:45am**. The cost will remain **£5 per session**, with **no increase** for the extended time.

Please note that any future price adjustments will only reflect standard inflationary changes applied across all TPA-run services.

TPA School-Led Clubs

All clubs delivered by TPA staff will now run for a **full hour (3:40–4:40pm)** instead of 45 minutes — **at no additional cost**.

Private club providers will adjust their timetables to align with the new school day, ensuring continuity for children and families.

Teaching and Learning Time

The school timetable and curriculum will be carefully reorganised to make sure **no learning time is lost**.

Even with this change, TPA will continue to have a **longer school day** than neighbouring schools such as Archdeacon, Trafalgar Juniors, St James' and Stanley Primary.

After-School Care (JAG)

We have worked closely with **JAG** to offer a range of flexible session times and pricing options to meet families' needs.

Where the earlier finish time would otherwise result in increased costs, **Omnia Learning Trust** will subsidise the £1.20 price difference for **pupils in Years 4–6** during the **2026/27 academic year**, provided that your child is currently registered with **JAG**.

25/26 JAG Session	25/26 Timings	25/26 Price	26/27 Proposed JAG Session	26/27 Timings	26/27 Price*
Reception	15:30–18:00	£17.70	Reception & Year 1	15:30–18:00	£16.55
Year 1	15:40–18:00	£16.55			

25/26 JAG Session	25/26 Timings	25/26 Price	26/27 Proposed JAG Session	26/27 Timings	26/27 Price*
Year 2	15:45–18:00	£15.95	Year 2 & 3	15:35–18:00	£15.95
Year 3	15:50–18:00	£15.35			
Year 4	16:00–18:00	£14.15	Years 4–6	15:40–18:00	£15.35**
Year 5	16:00–18:00	£14.15			
Year 6	16:00–18:00	£14.15			

* Prices are based on the 2025/26 price list and may be subject to minor inflationary increases.

** The £1.20 difference for per session will be fully covered by the Trust for 2026/27.

Benefits of the Proposed Change

A balanced and focused school day:

A slightly shorter day will help children sustain focus and energy throughout their lessons, supporting high-quality learning and happier, more productive classrooms.

Protecting learning time:

Our curriculum will be carefully reorganised to make sure every child continues to receive the same rich and varied learning opportunities.

Stronger wellbeing for pupils and families:

This small adjustment supports children’s emotional and physical wellbeing, giving them more time for rest, play, family life, and enrichment activities outside school.

Consistency across the Trust:

Aligning our school day with other Omnia Learning Trust schools creates greater consistency in teaching and learning, helping us continue to recruit and retain excellent staff.

Sustained flexibility for families:

We’ll continue to offer high-quality, affordable wraparound care and an exciting range of after-school clubs, ensuring the change works for every family.

Keeping our high standards:

Even with a slightly shorter day, Twickenham Primary Academy still have one of the longest school days in the area — maintaining our strong commitment to excellence and ambition for all

Timeline and Consultation

Action	Date
Trust submits planning amendment application	24 October 2025
Local Authority consultation period opens	November 2025
Decision by Local Planning Authority	Early 2026
New school day implemented (subject to approval)	September 2026

We're incredibly proud of how far our school has come since opening in 2015. This proposal reflects a considered and evidence-based decision by **Omnia Learning Trust**, designed to maintain the highest standards of education while also supporting staff wellbeing, family life, and our local community.

If, after reviewing the information above, you believe you are directly impacted by this proposal, you can submit a response clearly outlining the **specific nature of the direct impact** you believe this proposal would have using the link below, which is managed by **Omnia Learning Trust**.

[Click here to submit direct impact](#)

This will help ensure that our plans reflect the needs and priorities of our school community.

Thank you for your ongoing trust, partnership and support.

Yours sincerely,



Jodie Croft

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Omnia Learning Trust