

Dunswell Academy

part of Edukos Trust

Beverley Road, Dunswell, East Yorkshire, HU6 0AD

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www.dunswellacademy.co.uk

Miss Alison Oxtoby
Executive Head Teacher

13th December 2024

Dear parents and carers,

Mrs Catherine Burrell
Head of School

Further to our letter earlier this week with regards to the closure of Hometime, I wanted to update you.

We have met with Christine from Hometime and she has provided us with a great amount of data to help us make decisions. It is quite clear from this data that there are not the numbers of people using the service to make it financially viable. We as a school would be in the exact same position. The service has only been used by 13% of the school, however this usage is very sporadic and not at all consistent. On average, since opening, breakfast sessions have 3 children attending and after school have 4 children. On such low numbers, there is clearly not the need there and costs have not been covered.

We took the decision to have a private provider run the wraparound because as a small school, we just don't have the staff base to facilitate having two members of staff present and then being prepared for staff absence. The cost to school of running a club for an hour with two staff, activities and food would be around £38. As you can see with the uptake number above and those costs, the figures just don't work out.

We are aware that a number of parents are stating that the service was too expensive but prior to undertaking this we looked at various schools for comparative prices. It is very difficult to make comparisons as all schools have different factors around how they run their wraparound. The majority of schools were in line with Hometime prices. Where the costs were less, they were larger schools who were able to run the provisions in house. After speaking with some, they also have at least a 25% uptake of the school. It is not appropriate to compare with Hull schools who are generally in the position to subsidise their provisions.

Just like Hometime, providers generally offer the use of Tax-free childcare which covers 20% of the cost for childcare. This is available for all parents unless one of the parents earns more than £100,000. Using this would bring the cost of a morning session from £5 to £4 and the longer evening session from £9 to £7.20 which for excellent childcare with excellent resources is more than competitive with others.

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We have since looked at the costs of childminders (who were all above £5 per hour – without the additional pick-up cost) and Just for Kids who run at St Andrews Primary School in Sutton. Just for Kids are unable to offer a pick-up service currently and their charge for a session is also £9.

We understand that there are a few parents who really rely on the service, and we continue to look into other support. This morning, we have spoken with the local authority, and they are supporting us in looking for alternatives in the local area and we will update you if we are able to signpost you anywhere.

As a school, we are saddened that this venture hasn't come to fruition. From January, we will try to offer enrichment activities after school, but these will not be available every evening or to every Key Stage.

If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Alison Oxtoby

Executive Head Teacher

Catherine Burrell

Head of School