



## Impact of Changing Lesson Times in the Lower School

(Submitted by Donna Kelly, 2017, while serving as Lower School Leader at International School of Havana, Cuba)

<b>Tool(s) used:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainability Compass</li> </ul>
<b>Purpose of using tool:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Synthesizing Thinking</li> <li>• Guiding Discussion</li> </ul> <p><b>Overview:</b> The Sustainability Compass was used by the Lower School Leadership team to consider the impact of changing the lesson times from 40 minute periods to 1 hour periods would have on Nature, Economy, Society and Well-being.</p>
<b>Context of lesson/case study:</b>	Thinking about and discussing the impact and consequences of a whole school change to timetable next academic year.
<b>Participants (# and description):</b>	Lower School Coordinators: Donna Kelly, Mabetty Perez, Martiza Valdes, Georgie Schofield (Lower School Principal)
<b>Topic, Theme, or Key Understanding of unit/project:</b>	The impact of changing the lesson times from 40 minute periods to 1 hour periods.
<b>Length of unit/project:</b>	-
<b>Resources/materials &amp; setting required:</b>	Sustainability Compass to be completed, markers, detailed Sustainability Compass point prompts, within a PLT meeting
<p><b>Lesson Plan/Description of the Project:</b></p> <p>After lessons were reduced from 45 minutes to 40 minutes, feedback was received from staff that these blocks were too short, especially in Secondary when students need to move from one classroom to another, collecting different notebooks and textbooks from their lockers on the way. As a result of this feedback, the timetable for next year has changed to 1-hour lesson slots. The Sustainability Compass was used consider the impact (positive and negative) that this change would have on all four different aspects of the Sustainability Compass, including any unintended consequences.</p> <p><b>Teaching tips/ideas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I found the detailed Sustainability Compass point prompts useful for stimulating thinking</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Reflection</b></p> <p><b>Plusses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Sustainability Compass is a great tool to allow you to consider benefits and possible problems side by side.</li> <li>• It prompted rich discussion, especially about unintended consequences that we hadn't considered before using the Sustainability Compass.</li> <li>• We were able to use the tool to consider the impact on all members of our community at the same time.</li> </ul>	





**Challenges:**

- Since it had been a few weeks since the last time we had discussed the changes in timetable, it would have been useful to recap on the changes before starting the use the Sustainability Compass so that they were fresh in people’s minds

**Suggestions for other practitioners and educators:**

Analysing a decision from the different Sustainability Compass points is a great way of expanding one’s thinking and igniting discussion. Whilst using the tool to guide our thought process, we realised that there were things that we hadn’t considered before and needed to discuss further.

**Evidence and Resources:**

