



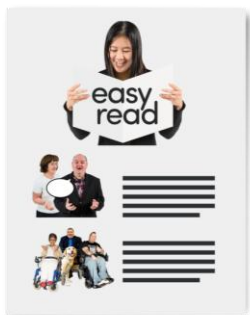
Ways we could change our School Transport Policy wording

What do you think?



Hampshire
County Council

Easy Read



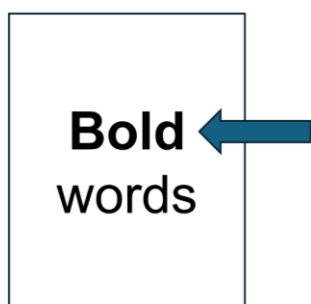
This information is in Easy Read. It uses easier words and pictures to tell you about our ideas.

It may not include all of the information, but it will tell you about the important parts.



If you would like help reading and understanding the information, you could ask:

- someone in your family or a friend.
- a support worker or a carer.



Some words are in **bold** – this means the writing is thicker and darker.

These are words that some people will find hard. When you see a bold word, we will explain it in the next sentence.



[Blue and underlined](#) words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

Contents



Page 4: Introduction



Page 7: The changes we are thinking of making



Page 19: Other comments

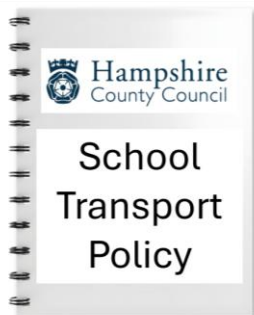


Page 20: About you



Page 28: Thank you

Introduction



Hampshire County Council (the County Council) is thinking about making some changes to the words in its **School Transport Policy**.



The School Transport Policy explains who can get help with getting to school.



Before we make any final decisions, we want to know what you think.



Please read the information and answer the questions in this booklet.



We will follow the law on Data Protection to keep your answers and your name private.



You can get more information about how we do this on our website:

www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/strategiesplansandpolicies/dataprotection.



Please send your answers to us by Thursday 10 December 2026.

In this booklet, when we say **parents** this includes:



- **Birth parents, carers or guardians** - these are people who the law says can look after a child.



- Parents who have **adopted** a child - this is when a child becomes part of a new family when they can't be brought up by their own family.



- **Foster families** - these are families who look after children who cannot live with their own parents.



You can get more information about the School Transport Service in Hampshire on our website:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schooltransport>

The changes we are thinking of making



We are thinking about changing some of the words in our School Transport Policy.



The changes are mainly to make the policy easier to understand and to use the same words that the Government uses.



There would be no changes to how we run school transport services or **eligibility**.

Eligibility is the rules that explain who can get School Transport.



We would continue to provide the transport that the law says we have to.

The changes we are thinking of making



On the next few pages we will explain our ideas for changes and you can tell us what you think about them.

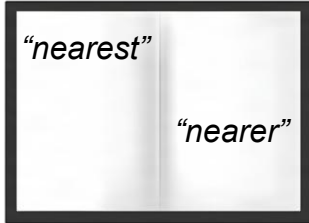


You do not have to tell us your thoughts on every change.

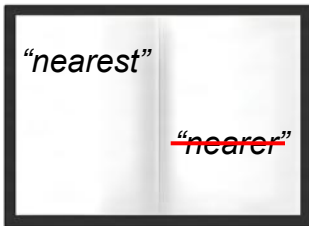


After we explain the changes there is also a space where you can leave a single comment about all the changes if you want.

Idea 1: Changing the word "nearer" to "nearest"



The Policy usually says the "nearest" suitable school when explaining who can get transport. But sometimes it uses the word "nearer" instead.



We are thinking about always using "nearest" instead of "nearer" in the Policy to avoid confusion.



This should reduce confusion about School Transport decisions.

Question 1: If you have any comments about this idea then please tell us in the box below:

Idea 2: Adding information about Armed Forces families



We are thinking about adding information about the **Armed Forces Covenant** to our school transport policy.



The **Armed Forces Covenant** is a promise to be fair to Armed Forces families.



This would explain how we think about the needs of Armed Forces families when they apply for school transport.

Question 2: If you have any comments about this idea then please tell us in the box below:

Idea 3: Updating information on Free School Meals



Some children can get free school meals because their family has a low income.



We are thinking about updating the Policy to match the Government's new rules for free school meals, but this would not change who can get School Transport.



We would change the Policy to explain how eligibility for school transport will still be based on the Government's rules around free school meals.

Question 3: If you have any comments about this idea then please tell us in the box below:

Idea 4: Remove mention of Working Tax Credit



The Government has replaced **Working Tax Credit** with **Universal Credit**, so we want to change the Policy to make sure it uses the same words.



Working Tax Credit was extra money for people on a low income who work.



Universal Credit is a benefit to help with living costs if you have a low income or are not working.

Question 4: If you have any comments about this idea then please tell us in the box below:

Idea 5: Saying that payments are calculated half-termly



We are thinking about changing the Policy to say that the money that some parents pay is calculated per half term, instead of per week.



These payments are already calculated by half term, so this change would make the Policy explain what actually happens.

Question 5: If you have any comments about this idea then please tell us in the box below:

Idea 6: Adding more detail about the appeals process



We are thinking about including more information about how **appeals** from parents are decided.



An **appeal** happens when a person disagrees with a decision and asks that someone looks at it again.



This change would help parents understand the appeals process.

Question 6: If you have any comments about this idea then please tell us in the box below:

Idea 7: Adding more detail about ticketing systems



We are thinking about including a list of the different types of tickets available, such as travel passes, and electronic tickets such as a **QR code**.



A **QR code** is a square picture that you can scan with a smartphone or tablet.

Scanning a QR code can show information or take you to a website.



This would help parents understand what types of tickets are available.

Question 7: If you have any comments about this idea then please tell us in the box below:

Idea 8: Saying "catchment school" in the Policy

Designated
catchment
area school



Catchment
school

We are thinking about changing the Policy by replacing the phrase:
"designated **catchment area school**"
with:
"catchment school".



Catchment area school and **catchment school** mean the school for your area.



Both terms mean the same thing, but we think the shorter version is simpler to read and understand.

Question 8: If you have any comments about this idea then please tell us in the box below:

Idea 9: Explaining how travel payments are calculated



We are thinking about explaining how payments for **Personal Transport Budgets** are calculated.



Personal Transport Budgets are the money given to parents who arrange school transport for their own child.



We think that this change would make it simpler for these parents who use Personal Transport Budgets to understand how much money they would receive.

Question 9: If you have any comments about this idea then please tell us in the box below:

Idea 10: Being clearer about times for school transport



School Transport is usually provided at the normal start and end of the school day.



We are thinking about explaining that school transport is not usually available for late starts, early finishes or activities outside normal school hours.



This change would help parents understand what times transport is provided.

Question 10: If you have any comments about this idea then please tell us in the box below:

The changes we are thinking of making



You have now read about all the changes we are thinking of making.

Question 11: If you want to make an overall comment on the changes then please put this in the box below:

Other comments



Question 12: Please tell us if you have any other comments about the School Transport Policy that you have not had the chance to say:

About you

Please answer these questions about who you are:



Question 13: Who are you answering these questions for? *Please tick one box.*

- ☐ For myself – *go to the next page.*
- ☐ For an organisation or group – *go to page 23.*
- ☐ As a councillor or MP – *go to page 26.*

More about you



Please answer these questions about yourself.



We are asking these questions because we want to make sure we are hearing from different groups of people in Hampshire.



You do not have to answer these questions if you do not want to.



Question 14: What is your postcode?

Question 15: Which of these apply to you or someone who lives with you?



☐ Gets School Transport or Post-16 Transport now



☐ Used to get School Transport or Post-16 Transport in the past



☐ Is under 25 and has Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND)



☐ Has a health condition or disability that affects daily life



☐ Serves, or has served, in the Armed Forces



☐ None of these

Questions for organisations and groups

If you are answering for an organisation or group, we might:



- Include the name of your organisation or group in our final report.



- Give your answers to others if we need to.

Question 16: If you are answering for an organisation or group, please tell us:



The name of the organisation or group:



The postcode of the organisation or group:



Your name:



Your job in the organisation or group:

Question 17: If you are answering for an organisation or group, please tell us:



What sort of organisation or group is it?
Please tick one box.

- ☐ A charity or community group.
- ☐ A local business.
- ☐ A county, district, borough, town or parish council.
- ☐ A nursery, school or college.
- ☐ A public service like Fire, Police or Health.
- ☐ Other – please say:

Questions for Councillors and MPs



If you are answering as a Councillor or MP, we might:

- Include the name of the area you represent in our final report.



- Give your answers to others if we need to.

If you are answering as a councillor or MP, please tell us:



Question 18: What is the name of the area that you represent?



Question 19: What is your name?

And finally



Question 20: How did you hear about this consultation?

- ☐ On social media, like Facebook or Twitter.
- ☐ Online.
- ☐ In a public building like a library or community centre.
- ☐ Email or letter sent to you.
- ☐ On a poster or leaflet.
- ☐ In a resident's newsletter.
- ☐ From my child(ren)'s school
- ☐ At work.
- ☐ Somebody told me.
- ☐ Newspaper, radio or TV.
- ☐ Other – please say:

- ☐ I do not know.

Thank you



Thank you for answering these questions.



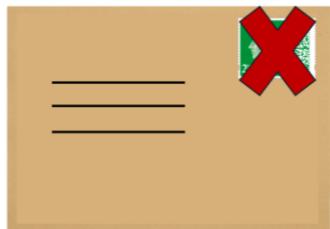
Please send your answers back to us by post. Please use the envelope we gave you.



If you did not get an envelope, you can send it to:

Freepost HAMPSHIRE

On the back of the envelope, write:
School Transport Consultation, B026R



You don't need to use a stamp.



Please send us your answers by Thursday 10 December 2026.