

Hampshire School Transport Policy 2026 Consultation Response Form



Hampshire
County Council

Introduction

This consultation is open from Thursday 22 October 2026 and closes at 11:59pm on **Thursday 10 December 2026**.

Hampshire County Council (the County Council) is seeking residents' and stakeholders' views on proposed changes to the wording of its School Transport Policy. The School Transport Policy (the Policy) sets out how the County Council meets its legal duty to provide transport assistance to school or another education setting for children and young people living in the local authority area..

There would be no change to existing transport arrangements, or the way the School Transport Service determines eligibility for transport, as a result of these proposed changes.

Regardless of any decisions made, the County Council will continue to meet its statutory requirements in relation to School Transport.

Completing the Response Form

This consultation should take about 10 minutes to complete.

Please use a black or blue pen and mark your responses by putting a cross within the appropriate box. If you make a mistake, please fill in the entire box and put a cross in the correct box, as shown below.

Correct response Incorrect response



If you need more space to write your answers, please continue your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

Alternatively if you have access to the internet then you can complete this Response Form online at:

www.hants.gov.uk/school-transport-consultation

Completing the Response Form online ensures that your response is received instantly and securely, and the online form is simple to use on devices such as computers, tablets and smartphones.

Please be constructive and considerate in your response. All Hampshire County Council staff are entitled to be treated with respect by those they work with or for, and the County Council operates a [Zero Tolerance Policy](#) towards harassment, discrimination, bullying and abuse.

This box is for office use only. Please **do not** write in the box.

Your data

Privacy notice

Hampshire County Council is collecting information through this consultation in order to understand views and potential impacts of proposed changes to the School Transport policy. The legal basis for the use of your information is UK GDPR Article 6 1 e 'performance of a task carried out in the public interest in the exercise of official authority vested in the County Council'. Responses will be used to inform changes to the wording of the School Transport Policy.

All data will remain within the UK/EEA and will only be shared with third parties where they are undertaking data processing on behalf of Hampshire County Council. Personal information will be held securely for 2 years, after which it will be deleted or destroyed.

You have some legal rights in respect of the personal information we collect from you. Please see our [Data Protection page](#) for further details. You can contact the County Council's Data Protection Officer at data.protection@hants.gov.uk. If you have a concern about the way we are collecting or using your personal data, you should raise your concern with us in the first instance or directly to the Information Commissioner's Office at www.ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/.

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About your response

Are you... *(Please choose one option)*

- ☐ Responding as an individual
- ☐ Providing the official response of an organisation, group or business
- ☐ Responding as a democratically Elected Representative of a constituency (e.g. as a county, district, borough, parish or town council Member or MP)

If you are **responding as an individual**, please go to **page 5**.

If you are providing the **official response of an organisation, group or business**, please go to **page 4**.

If you are responding as a **democratically Elected Representative** of a constituency, please answer the two questions below and then go to **page 5**.

 If you are responding officially or as a democratically Elected Representative, the name of the constituency you represent may appear in the final report, and the information you provide may be subject to publication or release to other parties or to disclosure regimes such as the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Which constituency do you represent? *(Please specify in the box below)*

What is your name? *(Please write in the box below. NB: This will only be used if we need to contact you to validate your response)*

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If you are providing the **official response of an organisation, group or business**, please answer the two questions below and then go to **page 5**.

ⓘ If you are providing the official response of an organisation, group or business, its name may appear in the final report, and the information you provide may be subject to publication or release to other parties or to disclosure regimes such as the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please provide details about the organisation, group or business that you represent:

Name of the organisation, group or business:

Postcode of the organisation, group or business:

Your name:

Your position in the organisation, group or business:

Which of these best describes the function of your organisation, group or business? *(Please choose one option)*

- ☐ Charity, voluntary or local community group
- ☐ Local business or business representative (e.g. BID)
- ☐ Local authority (e.g. county, district, parish, town or borough council)
- ☐ School, college, or other place of education
- ☐ Other public sector organisation (e.g. Police, Fire, Health Authority)
- ☐ Other

For 'other' please specify in the box below:

Section 1 – The proposed changes to the School Transport Policy

The County Council is proposing updates to the wording of its School Transport Policy to make it easier for parents to understand how the County Council meets its legal duties as described in the Department for Education statutory guidance on Travel to School for Children of Compulsory School Age.

There have been a number of changes to central Government systems over the years. We want to make sure that the wording in Policy reflects the current wording that the Government uses, as well as making changes to make the policy clearer.

As previously mentioned, there would be no change to existing transport, or arrangements, the way the School Transport Service determines eligibility for transport, as a result of these proposed changes.

We want to understand your views on these proposed wording changes, and whether you think there could be any impact from them.

The proposed wording changes to the School Transport Policy are explained in detail in the Information Pack.

You can provide a general comment on the proposed wording changes below if you wish:

Please do not provide any personal details in your response

You can also provide comments against the individual changes on the next two pages.

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You can comment on the individual proposed wording changes below: *Please do not provide any personal details in your response*

Replacing the term "nearer" school with "nearest" school in some scenarios where the Policy defines eligibility

Adding reference to the Armed Forces Covenant within the School Transport Policy and explain how service-related circumstances may be considered

Updating the policy to reflect current Free School Meal categories and the end of transitional protections

Removing references to Working Tax Credit and replace them with references that reflect current benefit arrangements

Amending the policy to state that transport contributions are calculated on a half-term basis rather than by weeks

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You can comment on the individual proposed wording changes below: *Please do not provide any personal details in your response*

Adding references to the School Transport Appeals Code and Stage 2 Appeal Panel Terms of Reference

Updating policy wording to reflect the use of travel passes, QR codes and other ticketing methods

Replacing the term "designated catchment area school" with "catchment school"

Explaining how Personal Transport Budgets (PTBs) are calculated, which includes the current HMRC mileage rate

Clarifying that school transport is not normally provided for late starts, early finishes or activities outside normal school hours

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Additional comments

If you have any other comments about the Policy that you have not had the opportunity to share, please include these here.

Please do not provide any personal details in your response

About you

Please answer the questions in this section if you are **responding to this consultation as an individual**.

If you are providing the **official response of an organisation, group or business**, or **responding as a democratically Elected Representative of a constituency**, please ignore this section and submit this Form as explained on the next page.

Please provide your postcode:

Providing your postcode is optional. It would help us to understand the impact of proposed changes if you could provide at least the first five digits of your postcode. If you do provide your full postcode it is possible that in rural areas this might identify your property. By providing your postcode you are consenting to the County Council using this information to analyse the response to the consultation from different areas, to understand how views differ by area and to help model data for different types of respondent.

Are you, or is anyone else in your household...*(Please choose all that apply)*

- ☐ Receiving School Transport or Post-16 Transport
- ☐ Someone who received School Transport or Post-16 Transport in the past
- ☐ Aged under 25 and have Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND)
- ☐ Experiencing any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses that reduce their day-to-day activities
- ☐ Serving (or has served) in the Armed Forces
- ☐ None of these

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End of consultation

Thank you for completing this consultation.

Your feedback will help us understand views and potential impacts of proposed changes to the wording of our School Transport Policy.

Please send this form to arrive no later than **Thursday 10 December 2026** using the return envelope you were provided with this Response Form.

If you have not been provided with a return envelope, please put this form into an envelope and send it to **Freepost HAMPSHIRE**. Please write **School Transport Consultation, B026R** on the back of the envelope. You do not need to use a stamp.