

Dear Parent / Carer

Please see details that we have been asked to pass onto parents regarding an upcoming consultation on the County Council's School Transport Policy

Hampshire County Council has agreed to launch a consultation on proposed changes to its School Transport Policy. This will be published on the [County Council's website](#) and will run from Monday 30 October until Wednesday 6 December.

A separate consultation will run at the same time on the County Council's Post-16 Transport Service, for young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) travelling to further education or training. For more details of this consultation and how to provide feedback, please visit the [Hampshire County Council website](#) from Monday 30 October. The consultation on the School Transport Policy will gather views on a range of proposals to make the service more flexible and responsive to children's needs over time. These include the proposed introduction of Personal Transport Budgets which could give families greater choice and flexibility to create more tailored transport arrangements otherwise unavailable in the local transport market.

Other proposals include the development of an Independent Travel Training offer to support a small number of children to travel independently as part of their preparations for adulthood. If agreed, this would only be offered where absolutely suitable, following a thorough assessment process, and in agreement with the parents or carers concerned. Also proposed is the regular review of Passenger Assistants (PAs), who accompany eligible children with additional needs on their journeys to school. If agreed, this would ensure that the right support continues to be in the right place, both for those children currently with PAs and for those without.

Finally, an uplift in the parental contribution towards discretionary School Transport services is also proposed, in line with inflation, as well as some other smaller suggested changes to Policy wording to reflect the latest statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE).

Submitting feedback

Those wishing to respond to the School Transport consultation will find an information pack and consultation response form on the [County Council's website](#) from Monday 30 October. Easy-read versions of all documents will be available, along with paper, Braille and other translated copies on request.

Additionally, a number of information events will be held where children, young people, parents and carers, and others interested in School Transport will be able to ask any questions they may have about the proposals. These events apply only to the consultation on the School Transport Policy, and not to the separate Post-16 Transport Policy consultation. Details about these events will be published on the consultation webpage in due course. For full details of the proposed changes to the Policy, please visit the [Hampshire County Council website](#).

Analysis of the consultation feedback will be presented, alongside final recommendations for the School Transport Policy, to the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services at a Decision Day in early 2024.

Please copy and paste the following link to share this communication
[School Transport Policy Consultation](#).

Alternatively, you may wish to copy and paste the above content into an email or word document for onward sharing.

Be aware that emails may be sent to a recipient's spam folder, so you may need to ask or advise them to check their spam folder.

Please note, there is a Microsoft known Issue which is causing inconsistent results when viewing these links on a mobile phone. For best results, please view communications using a desktop device or laptop computer.

Regards,

Tim Finch

Chief Financial Officer

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust and

Director of Business and Finance

Oaklands Catholic School & Sixth Form College