



Hampshire
County Council



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It is the responsibility of a local authority to provide free home to school transport for children of compulsory school age in certain circumstances prescribed in legislation.

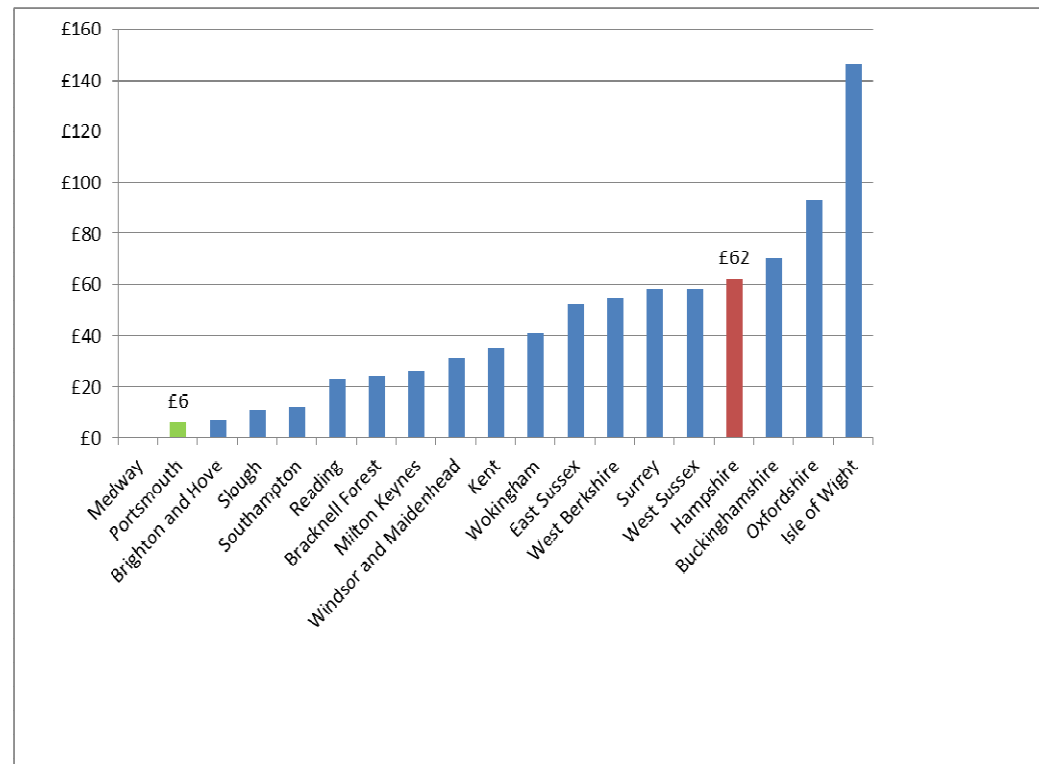
1. Provide free transport for all pupils of compulsory school age (5-16) if their nearest suitable school is:
 - beyond 2 miles (if below the age of 8); or
 - beyond 3 miles (if aged between 8 and 16)
2. For pupils with special educational needs, a disability or mobility problems the LA will make transport arrangements for children who cannot reasonably be expected to walk to school because of their mobility problems or because of associated health and safety issues related to their special educational needs (SEN) or disability.
3. Unsafe route eligibility; LAs must make transport arrangements for all children who cannot reasonably be expected to walk to nearest suitable school because the nature of the route is deemed unsafe to walk.
4. Extended rights eligibility, LAs must make additional free transport where pupils are entitled to free school meals or their parents are in receipt of maximum Working Tax Credit
5. Discretionary Arrangements; legislation provides local authorities with discretionary powers to go beyond their statutory duties and provide transport for children who are not entitled to free transport.

Home to School Transport and Post 16 Transport Provision

Current costs to provide both statutory and discretionary provision.

	2015/16 £	2016/17 £	2017/18 £
Mainstream	10,753,818	10,518,841	10,942,102
SEN	16,884,780	17,222,913	17,836,190
Post 16	1,099,126	1,613,330	1,361,119
EIS	951,558	1,240,563	958,150
Total	29,689,281	30,595,646	31,097,561
Traveller numbers	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Mainstream	9,654	10,107	11,155
SEN	2,768	2,860	2,738
Post 16	263	328	357
EIS	317	356	411
Total	13,002	13,651	14,661

Hampshire's rural geography requires particularly high spend (both in absolute terms but especially when considered relative to urban local authorities) on providing free transport for mainstream secondary phase pupils living more than 3 miles from the nearest school. Supporting compulsory school-age children with special educational needs who require free transport to access their nearest suitable provision is another area of very high costs.



Children's Service identified the following five features of its current policy which are discretionary and so could be stopped or changed:

- Home to School Transport for children with special educational needs and/o disabilities attending nursery placements
- Home to School Transport for children attending Reception classes but who are not yet of compulsory school age
- Maintaining provision for pupils who live between 2 and 3 miles from school from their eighth birthday until the end of the school year
- Automatic provision of transport (subject to a charge) for young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities aged 16 years and above
- The introduction of charges where transport is arranged as an exception to Home to School Transport Policy and increases to the existing charges applied under the Post 16 Transport Policy.

Question One: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following proposals?

To stop providing new Home to School Transport to children with Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities attending nursery placements from September 2018

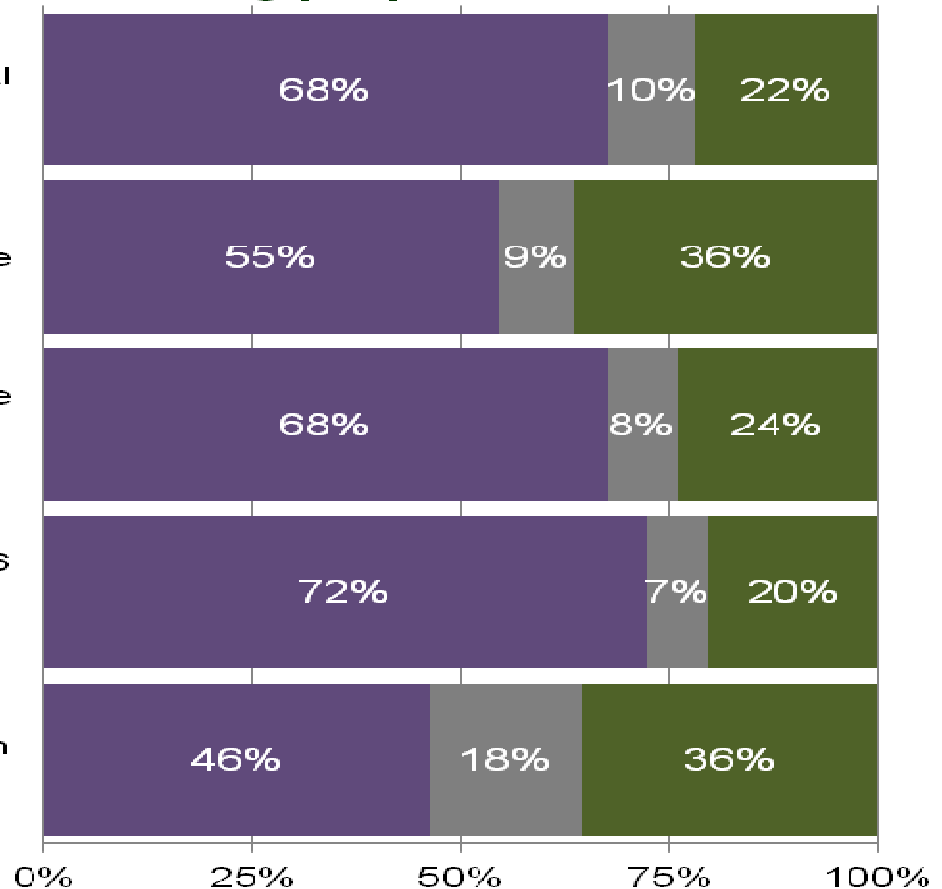
To only provide Home to School Transport once a child reaches compulsory school age from September 2019

To implement the revised walking distance from two miles to three miles on a child's eighth birthday from September 2018

To remove the automatic right to Post-16 Transport for new placements from September 2018

To charge where transport is provided as an exception to policy

- Disagree or strongly disagree
- Neither agree or disagree, or don't know
- Agree or strongly agree



Base: 754 responses

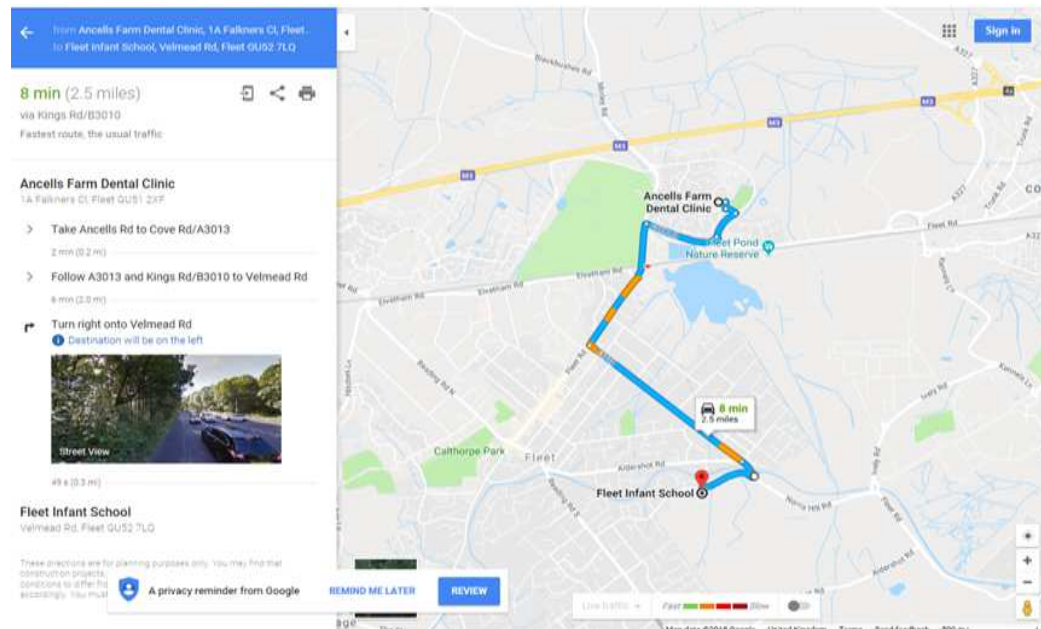


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Ancells Farm to Fleet Infant and Velmead Junior School

The homes on Ancells Farm were built as part of a new development begun in the 1980s. The conversation with developers originally proposed a school as part of the development but as a result of the availability of existing places in nearby schools that new, additional school was not built. The decision not to build the school but instead to provide places through nearby schools was taken by the County Council's Education Committee in 1989.

The service was withdrawn following an Education Committee decision in May 1995 but reinstated as a discretionary service after residents raised concerns.



T19: Other Projects

Current projects include:

- The use of school minibuses for Home to School Transport;
- Major procurement exercises looking at sole provider tendering and route bundling and longer terms of contract;
- Investing in infrastructure where unsafe routes require free transport to be provided and restructuring the service and its use of technology.

Recommendation 1: To approve the attached Home to School Transport Policy, effective from September 2018, incorporating the following changes following consultation:

Change 1: To stop providing (for new applicants) Home to School Transport to children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) attending nursery placements from September 2018.

Change 2: To only provide Home to School Transport once a child reaches compulsory school age (from September 2019).

Change 3: To implement the walking distance of three miles on a child's 8th birthday. This change to be effective from September 2019.

Change 4: To introduce tiered charges for any exceptions to policy approved from September 2018.

Recommendation 2: To approve the attached 2018/19 Post 16-Transport Policy Statement which incorporates the following changes:

Change 1: To apply a process whereby all families seeking transport support for a child in Post 16 education or training must apply for transport. Transport support would only be provided if it is required to facilitate attendance, with applications considered and based on individual circumstances to determine eligibility.

Change 2: Introduce tiered charges for any Post-16 Transport provided as exceptions to policy to young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities aged 16 years and above with effect from September 2018.

Recommendation 3: Transport from Ancells Farm to Fleet Infant and Velmead Junior School, which has been subject to an historical special arrangement, would become subject to the usual statutory distances and therefore from September 2019 eight year olds would not have transport provided to Velmead Junior School.