

Travelling to school

What do you think?

This is an Easy Read version of
Southampton City Council's
School Travel Policy 2025/2026
Consultation



What is Easy Read?



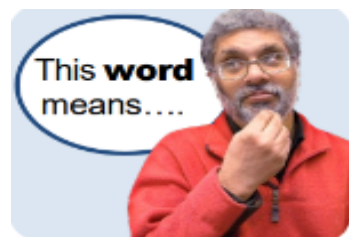
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information, but it will tell you about the important parts.



This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. You may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker. These are important words in the booklet.



Sometimes if a bold word is hard to understand, we will explain what it means.



Blue and underlined words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

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About this booklet



Southampton City Council is thinking about changing how we help children and young people travel to school.



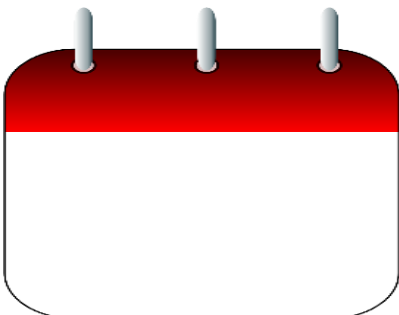
We want to know what you think.



This will help us decide what to do.



Please read the information and answer the questions.



Please let us know by **5pm** on **Monday 28 October 2024**.



We 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: [Privacy policy \(southampton.gov.uk\)](https://www.southampton.gov.uk/privacy-policy).

Travelling to school



We help about 1,700 children and young people travel to school every day.

The law says we must do this free if:



- The child is under 8 years old and lives more than 2 miles from their nearest suitable school



- The child is over 8 years old and lives more than 3 miles from their nearest suitable school



We do not have to give travel support for children in nursery or children who have finished year 11.

The law says that we also must do this for free if:



- The way of walking to school is not safe to the nearest suitable school



- The child has **SEND** and needs extra help to travel to school or lives too far away to walk to the nearest suitable school

SEND stands for **S**pecial **E**ducational **N**eeds and **D**isabilities. Children with SEND are aged 0 to 25 and need some extra support to learn and grow



We also help some other children travel to school.

We charge their **parents** some money for this



In this booklet, when we say school, this includes schools, colleges or other education setting.

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 cannot be brought up by their own family



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

The changes we are thinking of making

There are 8 changes we are thinking of making:



1. Make the information about what we offer clearer and easier to understand.



2. Offer some families with a Personal Travel Budget more money.



3. Change travel options for young people aged 16-19 years.



4. Ask young adults what they need to get to their education setting.



5. Stop providing free travel support to children if they move away from their school.



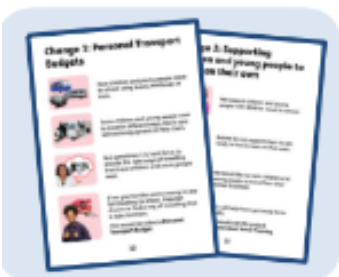
6. How much time we give you when we stop your travel support.



7. Stop travel support to children who are **not** entitled to it but can pay for it.



8. Tell us about your 3 nearest suitable schools on the school application form if you want to ask for travel support.



We will explain more about these changes in the next parts of this booklet.

Change 1 (1 of 2): The School Travel Service Policy



The **School Travel Service Policy** is a set of rules that explain what we need to do to support children and young people to travel to school.

We are thinking of making some changes to it, to make it:



- More up to date



- Clearer and easier to understand



These changes would mean that our School Travel Policy fits in with the Government's rules.



There are lots of small changes to the way the rules are written.



These will not change how the rules work. They will just use different words to tell parents about the rules.



Question 1: How much do you agree or disagree with our idea to make the rules more up to date and easier to understand?

Disagree a lot Disagree Neither agree nor disagree Agree Agree a lot I do not know





Question 2: Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your answer to Question 1?

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Change 1 (2 of 2): The School Travel Service Policy



The **School Travel Service Policy** is a document that explains what we need to do to support children and young people to travel to school.



The policy is for children and young people aged 5 – 25 years old.



But the rules are different for young people aged 16 - 25 years old.



We want to have two policies. One for 5 – 16 years old and one for 16 - 25 years old.



This will make it easier to understand the rules.



Question 3: How much do you agree or disagree with our idea to have 2 sets of rules?

Disagree a lot	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Agree a lot	I do not know



Question 4: Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your answer to Question 3?

Change 2: Personal Travel Budgets



Many of the children and young people that we help travel to school use buses, minibuses or taxis.



Some children and young people need to travel in different ways, like in cars with extra equipment to help them.



But sometimes it is hard for us to provide the right ways of travelling that these children and young people need.



We give some families money to pay for travelling to school so they can choose to find a way of travelling that is right for them.



Some families need even more support because they have other children or young people that need to get to school.



Some families need more support because they need to take time off work to take their child or young person to school.



We want to give these families a bit more money to help them manage to do this.



Question 5: How much do you agree or disagree with our idea to give some families more money if they have a Personal Travel Budget?

Disagree a lot	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Agree a lot	I do not know
					



Question 6: Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your answer to Question 5?

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Change 3 (1 of 2): Travel for Young People Aged 16-19



Many of the children and young people that we help travel to school use buses, minibuses or taxis.

But we do not have to do this by law.



We want to support young people to travel on their own.

This means for some young people we will stop providing transport.



Instead, we would give young people some money to pay to travel to college, so they can choose a way of travelling that is right for them.



If needed, we would train young people to travel from home.



But there may be some young people who can only get to college if we offer a bus, minibus or taxi.



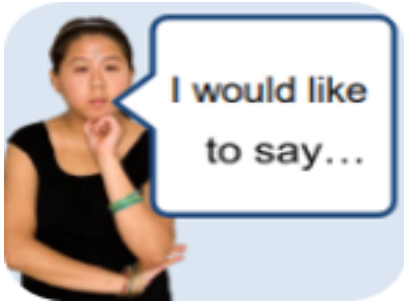
We would like to change the rules so that we can ask some families for money to help pay for the bus, minibus or taxi.



Question 7: How much do you agree or disagree with our idea to change the rules for how we provide travel for 16-19 year olds?

Disagree a lot Disagree Neither agree nor disagree Agree Agree a lot I do not know





Question 8: Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your answer to Question 7?

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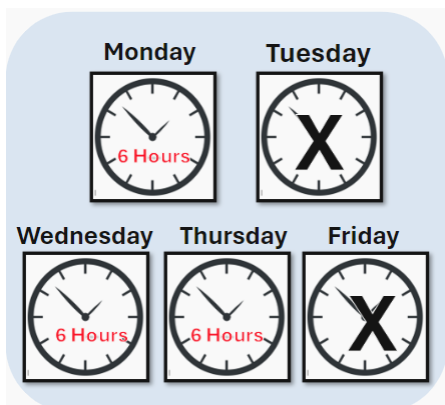
Change 3 (2 of 2): Travel for Young People Aged 16-19



Many of the young people that we help travel to school use buses, minibuses or taxis.



Right now, we do not say how much travel support we give to young people.



We want to be clearer about how much travel support we can give.

If a student does get travel support, they will get up to 18 hours of support over 3 days each week.

This means they can only get travel support for up to 18 hours across the 3 days.



Question 9: How much do you agree or disagree with our idea to tell you more about what travel support we give to 16-19 year olds?

Disagree a lot

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Agree a lot

I do not know



For the



Question 10: Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your answer to Question 9?

Change 4: Travel for Young Adults with SEND



Many of the children and young people that we help travel to school use buses, minibuses or taxis.



We do this based on what we think the young adult needs.



We want to change this so that the young adult tells us why they need help with their travel.



Question 11: How much do you agree or disagree with our idea that young adults tell us what travel support they need?

Disagree a lot Disagree Neither agree nor disagree Agree Agree a lot I do not know



Question 12: Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your answer to Question 11?

Change 5: Travel support for children who have moved away from their school



When a family moves house to another area, the council will sometimes pay for the child to travel the same school.



The means the council is having to pay more money when families choose to move house.

The council does not have to provide or pay for this travel support.



We want to change this so that families who move to a house in another area would have to find a way of getting to school every day. This change would include children in years 10 and 11.



Question 13: How much do you agree or disagree with our idea that families who move to a house in another area would have to find their own way of getting to school every day?

Disagree a lot	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Agree a lot	I do not know
					



Question 14: Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your answer to Question 13?

Change 6: When we tell you that your travel support is changing



Most of the children and young people that we help travel to school use buses, minibuses or taxis.



There are rules about when we can give you travel support.



If something changes, we may stop travel support for a child or young person.



If we stop helping you with your travel support, we give you notice of one school term.



We want to change this and give you 4 weeks' notice or until the end of the current half-term that the travel support will stop.



Question 15: How much do you agree or disagree with our idea that we change how much time we give you when we stop your travel support?

Disagree
a lot

Disagree

Neither
agree nor
disagree

Agree

Agree a
lot

I do not
know



Question 16: Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your answer to Question 15?

Change 7: Families who pay to travel to school



The law says that we must provide free travel for some children and young people to get to and from school.



But sometimes we provide travel to other children or young people that we do not have to by law.



If we do provide travel, we charge them some money.

Right now, no families use this service.



We want to change the rules so that we stop offering a travel service to children who are **not** entitled to it but can pay for it.



Question 17: How much do you agree or disagree with our idea that we stop travel support to children who are **not** entitled to it but can pay for it?

Disagree a lot Disagree Neither agree nor disagree Agree Agree a lot I do not know



Question 18: Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your answer to Question 17?

A large, empty rounded rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to provide additional information or comments related to their answer to Question 17.

Change 8: What you tell us about your nearest schools



When families apply for a mainstream school place, they must tell us which is the nearest suitable school to them if they want help with travel.



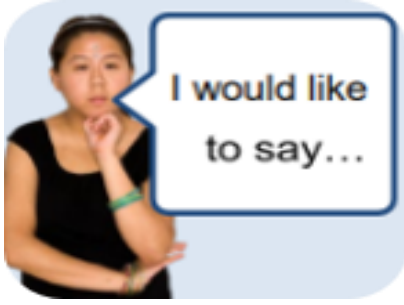
We want to change this and ask families to tell us the 3 nearest suitable schools on the school application form if you want to ask for travel support.



Question 19: How much do you agree or disagree with our idea to ask for the 3 nearest schools on the school application form?

Disagree a lot Disagree Neither agree nor disagree Agree Agree a lot I do not know





Question 20: Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your answer to Question 19?

A large, empty rounded rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to write their response to Question 20.

About you



Question 21: Why are you interested in the consultation? (Tick all that apply)

- I'm a parent or carer that receives school travel support for my child / young person
- I'm a child, young person or adult learner that receives school travel support
- I'm a school or college staff member
- I supply or might want to supply transport services to the council
- I'm a resident of Southampton
- I live outside Southampton
- I work, visit or study in Southampton
- I'm a local business who does **not** provide transport services

I work for a public service like Fire, Police or Health

I work for a charity or community group

I work for Southampton City Council

I'm a local councillor

Other – please say

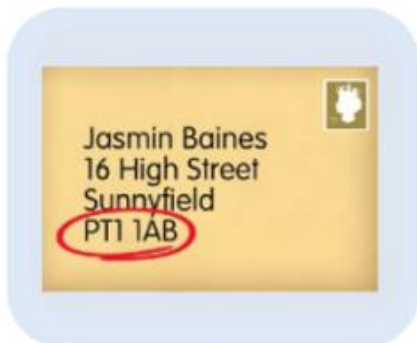
More about you



Please answer these questions about yourself.

Your answers will help us to make sure we are being fair to different groups of people.

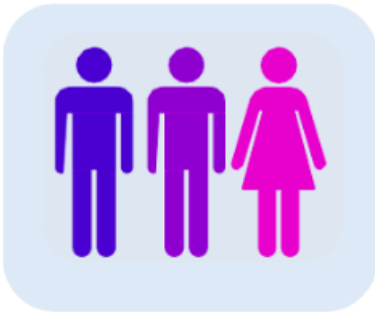
If you are answering for an organisation or group, please go to page 41.



Question 22: What is your postcode?



You do not have to answer this if you do not want to.

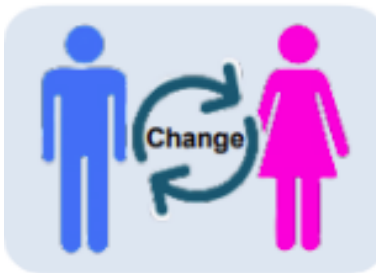


Question 23: Are you.....?

Female

Male

I do not want to say



Question 24: Is the **gender** you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?

Your **gender** is whether you are a man, a woman or something else.

Yes

No. If no, please write in your gender identity:

I do not want to say



Question 25: How old are you?

- Under 18
- 18 to 24
- 25 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65 to 74
- Over 74
- I do not want to say

Question 26: Are you.....?



Asian or Asian British

- Bangladeshi
- Chinese
- Indian
- Nepalese
- Pakistani
- Any other Asian background - please say:



Black or Black British

- African
- British
- Caribbean
- Any other Black background - please say:



Mixed or from more than 1 ethnic background

- White and Asian
- White and Black African
- White and Black Caribbean
- Any other mixed background - please say:



White

- English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish, British
- Gypsy or Irish traveller
- Irish
- Any other White background - please say:



Other ethnic group

Arab

Any other ethnic background -
please say:



I do not want to say



Question 27: Do you have a health condition or disability that has lasted more than a year?

No

Yes, but it does not affect my day-to-day activities

Yes, and it affects my day-to-day activities a little

Yes, and it affects my day-to-day activities a lot

I do not want to say

About your organisation or group



Question 28: Can we tell other people the name of your organisation or group if we are talking about your reply to this consultation?

Yes

No



Question 29: Can we contact you about your answers to the consultation?

Yes

No

Question 30: If you say yes, please tell us:



The name of the organisation or group:



Your name:



Your email:

Thank you



Thank you for answering our questions.



Please return your completed questionnaire to:

Consultations
First Floor West Wing
Civic Centre
Southampton
SO14 7LY

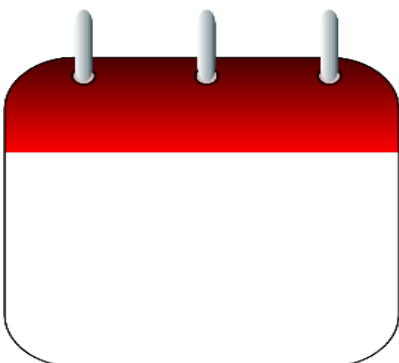
Or

Hand it in to any Southampton City Council run library

Or

Scan and send it by email:

yourcity.yoursay@southampton.gov.uk



Please send us your answers by **5pm** on **Monday 28 October 2024.**