



Consultation on school transport policies from September 2026

Open date: 26 September 2025

Close date: 16 November 2025

Name: Client Transport Team

Phone: 01296 387439

Email: H2STpolicyconsultation@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Overview

We want your views on proposed changes to our Home to School Transport Policy (0 to 25 year olds) and our Post-16 Transport Policy Statement for 2026 to 2027.

Home to school travel assistance for eligible children is a statutory service that we must deliver, and the council's school transport policies provide the framework for the services we provide. Like other local authorities across the country, the council continues to face increasing demand for school transport and significant related financial pressures. Find out more in our corporate plan and budget consultation at buckinghamshire.gov.uk/your-bucks-your-say (closes 11:59pm on Thursday 9 October).

We have proposed some changes to our Home to School Transport Policy (0-25 years) and some of our proposed changes are also relevant to our Post-16 Transport Policy Statement. The changes we have proposed are intended to make our school transport policies clearer and easier to understand.

Any agreed changes will apply for the 2026 to 2027 academic year onwards and will apply to both new and existing customers.

Proposed changes to school transport policy

The Home to School Transport Policy sets out our approach to providing transport to schools / educational settings for students up to 19 years old (up to 25 years for students with special educational needs and disabilities).

The Post-16 Transport Policy Statement sets out transport arrangements for students aged 16 and over. It specifies the transport arrangements we consider necessary for sixth form students to attend education or training.

We have made some changes to our school transport policies to make them clearer and easier to understand:

- clarification provided
 - on travel assistance eligibility and offer for children aged 0-4 years and young people aged 16 years and over
 - on extended rights eligibility for pupils from low income families
 - on circumstances where travel assistance will not be provided
 - that post-16 council arranged SEND transport for a fee will not be put in place until payment arrangements are made
 - on the reasons and notice periods that apply where travel assistance is withdrawn
 - by reducing the detail for the Spare Seats scheme in the policy, and including a link to the scheme's terms and conditions webpages instead
 - by reducing the level of detail on other topics e.g. public buses and trains and including links to the relevant webpages instead
- more information on
 - Personal Transport Budgets for pupils without an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
 - Post-16 Council arranged SEND transport for a fee
 - eligibility assessments for pupils and students with EHCPs moving into Buckinghamshire
 - transport eligibility for students with EHCPs who are following a supported internship

All the proposed updates are highlighted in yellow in the draft policy documents below. There are also clean versions of the draft policy documents with no tracked changes or yellow highlighting.

We want to hear your views on these updates and whether they have made our policies easier to understand.

Related documents

Before you respond to this consultation, please have a look at the following documents. These are available at www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/school-transport-consultation

- Draft Home to School Transport Policy 2026 (0 to 25 year olds)
 - document highlighting all proposed changes
 - clean document with no highlighting
- Draft Post-16 Transport Policy Statement 2026 to 2027
 - document highlighting all proposed changes
 - clean document with no highlighting

Find out more about home to school transport at [buckinghamshire.gov.uk/school-transport](https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/school-transport).

How to have your say

You can tell us your views in one of the following ways:

- complete the online survey at www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/school-transport-consultation
- complete, and return, a printed version of the survey below
- email us at H2STpolicyconsultation@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
- write to us at Home to school transport consultation 2025, Client Transport, Buckinghamshire Council, Walton Street, Aylesbury, HP20 1UA

If you have any questions about this consultation, please email us at H2STpolicyconsultation@buckinghamshire.gov.uk or phone us on 01296 387439.

Please tell us your views by 11:59pm on Sunday 16 November 2025.

What happens next

We will consider all the feedback we receive before deciding on the proposed changes to Home to School Transport Policy and Post-16 Transport Policy Statement. The council's key decision will be made in April 2026.

Once the decision has been made, we will publish the new Home to School Transport Policy and Post-16 Transport Policy Statement.

They will apply to school transport from September 2026. We will update this page with the outcome of the consultation.

Privacy

We will use the information you provide here only for this activity. We will store the information securely in line with data protection laws and will not share or publish any personal details. Survey responses will be analysed using Microsoft products including Copilot, Excel and Word. For more information about data and privacy, please see our [Privacy Policy](#).

If you have questions about data and privacy, please email us on dataprotection@buckinghamshire.gov.uk or write to our Data Protection Officer at Buckinghamshire Council, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF.

Consultation on school transport policies from September 2026 - Printed consultation survey

1. Please tell us your comments about the proposed changes to the Home to School Transport Policy:

Please include a reference to the section of the policy you are referring to (for example, section 10.8 Transport during the school / college day).

2. Please tell us your comments about the proposed changes to the Post-16 Transport Policy Statement 2026 to 2027:

Please include a reference to the section of the policy you are referring to (for example, section 6.3 Council arranged transport for an annual fee).

3. How easy is the draft Home to School Transport Policy and draft Post-16 Transport Policy Statement for 2026 to 2027 to understand?

Please tick (✓) one option for each proposal

	Very easy	Somewhat easy	Not very easy	Not at all easy	I don't know
Home to School Transport Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Post-16 Transport Policy Statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. If you think we can make the Home to School Transport Policy or Post-16 Transport Policy Statement for 2026 to 2027 easier to understand, please tell us how here:

About you

We will use the information you provide here only for the purpose of this activity. We will store the information securely in line with data protection laws and will not share or publish any personal details.

5. Which of the following describe you?

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- ☐ I live in Buckinghamshire
- ☐ I work in Buckinghamshire
- ☐ Parent / carer of a young person with special educational needs or disability (SEND)
- ☐ Parent / carer of a young person aged under 16 in education
- ☐ Parent / carer of a young person aged 16 or over in education
- ☐ A student aged under 16 in education with SEND
- ☐ A student aged under 16 in education

More answer options on the next page

- ☐ A student aged 16 or over in education with SEND
- ☐ A student aged 16 or over in education
- ☐ An educational professional
- ☐ I represent an education provider
- ☐ I represent a transport operator
- ☐ I represent a neighbouring local authority
- ☐ I represent or own a business
- ☐ I represent a community or voluntary group
- ☐ I am an elected representative in Buckinghamshire
- ☐ I work for Buckinghamshire Council
- ☐ Other (please give details below):

6. How did you find out about this consultation?

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- ☐ Local media (newspaper, radio, TV, website or newsfeed)
- ☐ Social media (Facebook, Twitter/X, Instagram, Nextdoor or LinkedIn)
- ☐ Buckinghamshire Council website or Your Voice Bucks website
- ☐ Email or newsletter from Buckinghamshire Council
- ☐ Buckinghamshire Council staff or other professionals
- ☐ Through working at Buckinghamshire Council
- ☐ Email from a local partner organisation or SEND setting
- ☐ Email from your child's school / education setting
- ☐ Poster or leaflet
- ☐ Friend or family member
- ☐ Local community or special interest group
- ☐ Councillor, town/parish council or community board
- ☐ Other (please give details below):

7. Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation (e.g. an education provider or transport operator)?

Please tick (✓) one option

- ☐ As an individual (go to question 9)
- ☐ On behalf of an organisation

On behalf of an organisation

8. Please provide the following details:

Name of organisation:

Your job title:

End of survey if responding on behalf of an organisation

About you

9. What is your age?

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of different age groups.

Please tick (✓) one option

- ☐ Under 16
- ☐ 16 to 24
- ☐ 25 to 34
- ☐ 35 to 44
- ☐ 45 to 54
- ☐ 55 to 64
- ☐ 65 to 74
- ☐ 75 to 84
- ☐ Over 85
- ☐ Prefer not to say

10.Are you:

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of different sexes.

Please tick (✓) one option

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Prefer not to say

11.Do you consider yourself to have a disability / disabilities, impairment(s) or long term health condition(s)?

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of disabled people, people with impairments and people with long term health conditions.

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- ☐ Disability / disabilities
- ☐ Impairment(s)
- ☐ Long term health condition(s)
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say

12.How would you describe your ethnicity?

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of different ethnicities.

Please tick (✓) one option

- ☐ Asian - British
- ☐ Asian - Bangladeshi
- ☐ Asian - Chinese
- ☐ Asian - Indian
- ☐ Asian - Pakistani
- ☐ Any other Asian background - Please give details below
- ☐ Black - African
- ☐ Black - British
- ☐ Black – Caribbean

More answer options on the next page

- ☐ Any other Black, African or Caribbean background - Please give details below
- ☐ Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Asian
- ☐ Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black African
- ☐ Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black British
- ☐ Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black Caribbean
- ☐ Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - Mixed or Multiple Ethnic backgrounds British
- ☐ Any other Mixed or Multiple ethnic background - Please give details below
- ☐ White - English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British
- ☐ White - Irish
- ☐ White - Gypsy or English traveller
- ☐ White - Irish Traveller
- ☐ White - European
- ☐ Any other White background - Please give details below
- ☐ Other ethnic group - Arab
- ☐ Other ethnic group - Arab British
- ☐ Other ethnic group - Please give details below
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Please give other details here:

End of the survey

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Please return your completed survey by 11:59pm on **16 November 2025**.

You can:

- email it to H2STpolicyconsultation@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
- post it to Home to school transport consultation 2025, Client Transport, Buckinghamshire Council, Walton Street, Aylesbury, HP20 1UA