

Children of compulsory school age (5 to 16)

Option 1: In September 2019, change the school travel policy so that it is in line with the legal requirements. Make all changes in one go (meaning removing Transport Priority Areas and operating a legally required policy to nearest suitable school). This option has the potential to make the greatest financial savings.

For the full range of changes under Option 1 go to page 10 of the consultation booklet.

Q1 What are your views on Option 1?

Strongly Support	Support	Neither Support nor Oppose	Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Don't Know

Q2 Can you tell us why you think this?



Option 2: From September 2019, apply the same policy change year by year as a child joins or moves school. This means children who are currently eligible under the existing school travel policy would remain eligible until they move school. It is estimated that this option would cost £8.8million to implement.

For the full range of changes under Option 2 go to page 12 of the consultation booklet.

Q3 Can you give us your views on Option 2?

Strongly Support	Support	Neither Support nor Oppose	Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Don't Know

Q4 Can you tell us why you think this?



Option 3: Make no changes to the school travel policy but make savings from other services provided by Suffolk County Council or through currently unidentified alternative funding.

For the detail of changes under Option 3 go to page 13 of the consultation booklet.

Q5 Can you give us your views on Option 3?

Strongly Support	Support	Neither Support nor Oppose	Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Don't Know

Q6 Can you tell us why you think this, and how do you think this should be funded?



Rights of Way

Public rights of way (public footpaths, bridleways, etc) could be taken into account when measuring distances to your nearest school and to assess eligibility for free school travel.

We would measure the shortest route along which a child, accompanied as necessary, may walk safely. Disputes about the safety of a particular route would continue to be resolved by the transport appeals committee.

The glossary in the consultation booklet explains what Rights of Way are.

Q7 Do you think Rights of Way should be taken into account when assessing the nearest school?

Yes		No		No view either way		Don't Know	
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Q8 Can you tell us why you think this?

Q9 Do you think Rights of Way should be taken into account when deciding the shortest walking route to the nearest school?

Yes		No		No view either way		Don't Know	
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Q10 Can you tell us why you think this?



Nearest school policy – County boundary

Children living more than the legal distance from their current school would only receive free school travel if their school is the nearest suitable school to their home, regardless of whether the school is in Suffolk or in a neighbouring county.

Q11 Do you think that schools outside of Suffolk should be included when identifying the nearest suitable school?

Yes		No		No view either way		Don't Know	
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Q12 Can you tell us why you think this?



Charging for spare seats

For spare seats on closed contracts where routes are not commercially viable, we would offer spare seats for sale (subject to spare capacity) to non-eligible children and young people.

The glossary in the consultation booklet explains cost recovery.

Q13 Should we change the price charged for the sale of empty spare seats?

Keep the same	
Actual cost per route (currently ranging from £380 to £1330 per year)	
The average cost (currently £960 per year)	
At a subsidised cost	
Other, please specify	

Q14 Should we sell spare seats?

Please tick those you feel are appropriate.

On a first come first served basis	
Prioritise those unable to access public transport	
Prioritise those who come from a low-income family	
Prioritise those who live in a rural location	
Other, please specify	



Reducing the impact of potential changes for children of compulsory school age (age 5 to 16)

If we introduce proposed Option 1 for children of compulsory school age (age 5 to 16), there would be children who would no longer receive their free travel funded by Suffolk County Council.

With a group of schools, we have developed a range of potential ‘local solutions’. The local solutions could be introduced alongside any changes to the school travel policy. They could reduce the cost of school transport and help manage some of the impact of any policy changes.

Individual schools/colleges, communities or parish councils would have to agree the detail with Suffolk County Council prior to their implementation. Part of the agreement would include an assessment of the impact on the health and wellbeing of the children affected.

We can use the local solution menu with any of the proposed options.

Q15 Can you please give us your views on the following Local Solutions?

	Local Solutions	Strongly Support	Support	Neither Support nor Oppose	Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Don't Know
a	Changing school start and finish times - use fewer vehicles on school transport						
b	Extend school opening times – re-use vehicles for school transport						
c	Increase the size of the vehicles used - use fewer vehicles on school transport						
d	Increase acceptable journey times - use fewer vehicles on school transport						



	Local Solutions	Strongly Support	Support	Neither Support nor Oppose	Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Don't Know
e	Influence professional development (PD) days - may be able to operate buses on fewer days						
f	Hub collection points - may be able to operate shorter routes and reduce cost of transport						
g	Ride and stride - may be able to operate shorter routes and reduce cost of transport						
h	Opt-in to travel - use fewer vehicles on school transport						
i	Group schools together - use fewer vehicles on school transport						
j	Plan for excess capacity - use fewer vehicles on school transport						
k	Schools plan transport - Flexibility for schools to work collaboratively or use transport provision for students without entitlement.						
l	Parental payments - use fewer vehicles on school transport						

Please see page 22 to 25 of the consultation document for examples of the local solutions.



Q16 Do you have any other suggestions/comments on the Local Solutions?

Please put the local solution letter (a-l) in the left-hand column below and your comment beside it



Q17 Can you please tell us in what capacity you are responding to this consultation? Please tick all those that are appropriate

Parent/Carer of child currently at school/college in Suffolk	
Parent/Carer of child not yet at school/college in Suffolk	
Pupil/Young person	
Head Teacher/Principal	
Teacher	
School Governor	
Member of the public	
Councillor	
Other (please specify)	

Q18 If you answered that you are a pupil/young person or parent/carer please tell us which school or schools (and if known the postcode)?

Q19 If you answered that you are a pupil/young person or parent/carer please tell us how you or your child(ren) currently travel to school(s)? Please tick all those that are appropriate

Walk	
Cycle	
Drive	
Car share	
Free school bus	
Free public bus	
Paid school bus	



Paid public bus	
Taxi	
Mileage allowance	
Other (please specify)	

Q20 What is your home postcode?

You do not have to provide this information, but if you do it will help us better understand how diverse a group of responses we receive.

Q21 If there is anything else you would like to tell us, including alternative suggestions or local and issues which may mean a loss of equality for any groups you know of please use the box below: -



DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

Please note that this section is optional, and you don't have to complete these questions if you don't want to.

If you choose not to answer these questions, please tick the 'Prefer Not to Disclose' option so that we are aware of your choice.

By providing this information it allows us to see which groups of people are responding to our consultations and which groups are underrepresented. We can then make extra efforts to reach underrepresented groups so that we can consider the views of all groups who may be affected by our plans. It also helps us ensure that everyone is treated fairly and equitably in everything we do. Without your information, we can't always spot trends and issues which enable us to make appropriate changes or improvements.

All responses to these questions are anonymous; responses are added together, and no individuals are identified. Any information provided is governed by the Data Protection Act 1998 which will be treated as strictly confidential.

Q22. If you choose not to answer any of these questions, please tick the 'Prefer not to disclose' option so that we are aware of your choice.

Prefer not to disclose	
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Q23. Are you:

Female	
Male	
Prefer to self-describe (please specify):	
Prefer not to say	

Q24. Which age group do you fit into?

Under 16	
16-19	



19-24	
25-34	
35-44	
45-54	
55-64	
65-74	
75+	
Do not want to say	

Q25. To which of these groups do you consider you belong?

Asian or Asian British: Indian	
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	
Any other Asian background - please specify	
Black or Black British: Caribbean	
Black or Black British: African	
Any other Black background - please specify	
Chinese	
Mixed: White and Black Caribbean	
Mixed: White and Black African	
Mixed: White and Asian	
Any other Mixed background - please specify	
White: English	



White: Irish	
White: Scottish	
White: Welsh	
White: British	
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	
Other white background - please describe	
Do not want to say	

Q26. What is your sexual orientation?

Bisexual	
Gay man	
Gay woman/Lesbian	
Heterosexual	
No sexuality	
Prefer not to say	
Same sex relationship with a man	
Same sex relationship with a woman	
Other	

Q27. Your religion or belief - What group do you most identify with?

No religion	
Baha'i	



Buddhist	
Christian	
Hindu	
Jain	
Jewish	
Muslim	
Sikh	
Any other religion or belief (specify if you wish)	

Q28. The provision for disability within Equalities legislation defines a person as disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long term (i.e. has lasted or is expected to last at least 12 months) and has an adverse effect on the person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. Do you consider yourself to have a disability according to the terms given in the Equality legislation?

Yes	
No	

Q29. If you have answered yes to the above question, please indicate the type of impairment which applies to you from the list below.

People may experience more than one type of impairment, in which case please select all that apply. If your disability does not fit any of these types, please mark 'Other'.

Mobility	
Hearing	
Vision	
Learning	



Mental Health	
Communication	
Long standing health condition	
Other (Please state)	

