

APPENDIX 1: Text of letter sent to parents as part of the consultation

Dear Parent

SCHOOL TRANSPORT: EXCEPTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Free transport is provided for children who live more than the statutory walking distance from, and who attend, the nearest school to their home. Under normal policy if a child is of statutory school age and is under 8 years old, and has to travel more than two miles by the shortest available walking route to your **nearest** school with a place we will normally provide free home to school transport to that school. For pupils aged 8* to 16 years the qualifying distance for free home to school transport is three miles from home to school by the shortest available walking route to your nearest school with places. If you apply for a school as a first preference which is not the nearest to your home you will not normally be eligible for free home to school transport.

*The qualifying distance for free home to school transport increases to 3 miles after the school year in which a child attains the age of 8.

However, because of some exceptional arrangements, for many years children living in certain areas have been receiving free transport to schools even though these schools are not their nearest. The Council is concerned about this situation because it wishes to achieve **a fairer transport policy for all Surrey Schools and pupils.**

On 11 February 2002 the Executive of the Council agreed to consult widely with schools, parents and other groups in order to ascertain views about ceasing the transport exceptional arrangements outlined in Appendix I (attached), from September 2003 and beyond for all new pupils.

However, wherever possible, concessionary fares will be offered on existing contract vehicles and advice on public bus / train links will be provided. You should therefore study Appendix I carefully to check whether the proposal to cease any of the transport exceptional arrangements will affect you and your child in the future.

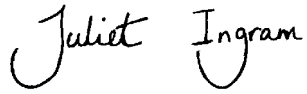
New entrants from these areas starting at the school after September 2003 may not be granted transport unless they satisfy the normal policy criteria. This includes siblings of children currently receiving transport. **Pupils who currently benefit under these arrangements will continue to do so until they leave the appropriate school.**

You may wish to consider these proposed changes when expressing your preferences for a school.

Parents wishing to submit their views on the above proposal should do so on the attached form and return to me as follows: Juliet Ingram, Pupil Services Consultant, Local Education Office (SW), Grosvenor House, London Square, Cross Lanes, Guildford, GU1 1FA as soon as possible but no later than 14 June 2002.

Further advice will be sent to parents in respect of these proposals when the outcome of the consultation is known.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Juliet Ingram". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and 'I'.

Juliet Ingram
PUPIL SERVICES CONSULTANT

enc.

Appendix I

EXISTING TRANSPORT EXCEPTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

(nb: this extract shows the arrangements affecting Mole Valley schools only)

School(s) in receipt of Exceptional Arrangements		Existing Exceptional Arrangement	Nearest School
Ref No.	School		
1	The Acorns (First) (Leigh site) Brockham (Primary) The Ashcombe / The Priory C of E (VA) (Secondary)	Pupils who attended The Acorns First School (Leigh site) as their nearest school receive free transport to Brockham Primary and then to The Ashcombe or The Priory, even though there may be other schools nearer to the home address.	Brockham (Primary) or Sandcross (Junior) depending on the home address. The Ashcombe / The Priory C of E (VA) / Reigate (Secondary) depending on the home address.
4	The Ashcombe / The Priory C of E (VA) (Secondary)	Pupils living within the old catchment area of the then Dorking Middle Schools, and over 3 miles from the nearest of The Ashcombe or The Priory school (previously Sondes Place), have received transport to either school, irrespective of which is nearer to the home address.	The Ashcombe, The Priory C of E (VA) , Glebelands or Oakwood (Secondary) depending on the home address.
5	The Ashcombe (Secondary)	Pupils living in Buckland receive free transport to The Ashcombe even though it is not the nearest school.	Reigate School (Secondary)
8	Broadwater / George Abbot / The Priory C of E (VA) (Secondary)	Pupils living in Albury, Shere and Gomshall receive free transport to Broadwater, George Abbot or The Priory, irrespective of which school is nearer to the home address.	Broadwater, George Abbot or The Priory (VA) (Secondary) depending on the home address.

School(s) in receipt of Exceptional Arrangements		Existing Exceptional Arrangement	Nearest School
Ref No.	School		
17	Scott-Broadwood C of E (VA) (Infant) The Weald C of E (VA) (Primary)	Pupils from the Forest Green area receive free transport to either Scott-Broadwood C of E or The Weald C of E, even though there may be other schools nearer to the home address.	Ewhurst C of E (VA) or Park Mead (Infant) Park Mead (Junior)
18	Scott-Broadwood C of E (VA) (Infant) The Weald C of E (VA) (Primary)	Pupils living in the areas of Oakwood Hill, Wallace Wood, Ockley etc., receive free transport to Scott-Broadwood C of E and The Weald C of E, even though there may be other schools nearer to the home address.	Park Mead (Infant) Park Mead (Junior)
19	St Bede's (VA) (Secondary)	Pupils living in the Buckland and Brockham area receive free transport to St Bede's on denominational grounds even though there is a Voluntary Aided school nearer.	The Priory C of E (VA) (Secondary)
26	St Paul's Catholic (VA) (Primary), Thames Ditton	Pupils living in the Cobham area receive free transport to St Paul's even though it is not the nearest school.	Cardinal Newman Catholic (VA), Hersham, and St Peter's Catholic (VA) (Primary), Leatherhead , depending on the home address.
28	St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic (VA) (Primary)	Pupils living in the Effingham area receive free transport to St Thomas of Canterbury even though it is not their nearest denominational school.	St Peter's Catholic (VA) (Primary), Leatherhead
31	The Woodville (Junior)	Pupils living in the Headley Court area receive free transport to The Woodville even though it is not the nearest school.	The Vale (Primary)