

School Crossing Patrols Surrey County Council's Policy

Introduction

The Surrey County Council School Crossing Patrol (SCP) Policy forms part of the newly proposed Road Safety Outside Schools (RSOS) Policy 2014. The purpose of the RSOS policy is to set out the process that will be used by Surrey County Council for investigating and responding to concerns about road safety outside schools. The aim is to reduce the risk of collisions by considering all appropriate measures for improving the safety of the environment and in turn encourage increased walking and cycling to and from schools.

Our main priority is that of the safety of the children and we will work with the school to agree and implement appropriate measures.

The implementation of an SCP is one possible road safety measure, the value of which will be assessed along with all other measures being considered within the RSOS policy when investigating safety issues outside schools. Whilst the decision to provide an SCP at a particular site is made using the risk assessment methodology identified within the RSOS policy, the operating of the service will be based on the Road Safety GB SCP Guidelines 2009 (revised 2010). This paper sets out the policy that applies to School Crossing Patrols.

One of the most frequently expressed road safety concerns is that of the safety of children outside schools. At school drop off and pick up times the roads in the immediate vicinity of schools are especially busy and there is usually a high level of vehicle, pedestrian, and cyclist activity. This causes slower vehicle speeds and congestion and very often leads to frustration from residents and motorists at the apparent chaos caused by parents and children arriving or leaving the school.

The county council would like to encourage safe walking and cycling to school, as this is better for the health of children, and reduces congestion and pollution. The perceived danger to children on busy roads on the school journey, especially in the vicinity of a school, can prove to be a barrier to more walking and cycling. This then results in more car journeys and more congestion.

The purpose of this policy is to set out the process that will be used by Surrey County Council for investigating and responding to requests for a school crossing patrol.

Roles and responsibilities

In Surrey, the responsibility for the School Crossing Patrol Service, falls to the Sustainability Community Engagement Team. The Education and Inspection Act 2006 (section 508A) puts a duty on schools to promote sustainable travel to school. School Crossing Patrols are one option that can contribute to this duty. Whilst SCC oversees the service, day to day management and the first line of management lie with the school.

The Community Engagement Team ensure that SCPs are recruited, trained and appropriately supervised, that adequate records are kept, potential SCP sites are risk assessed to ensure that there are appropriate and safe for SCPs to operate.

Any school that has or receives approval for an SCP will be expected to undertake further road safety education with their pupils and commit to reviewing their school travel plan. They will receive all available resources and support with training from the Community Engagement Team.

Procedure to assess if a school crossing patrol is required

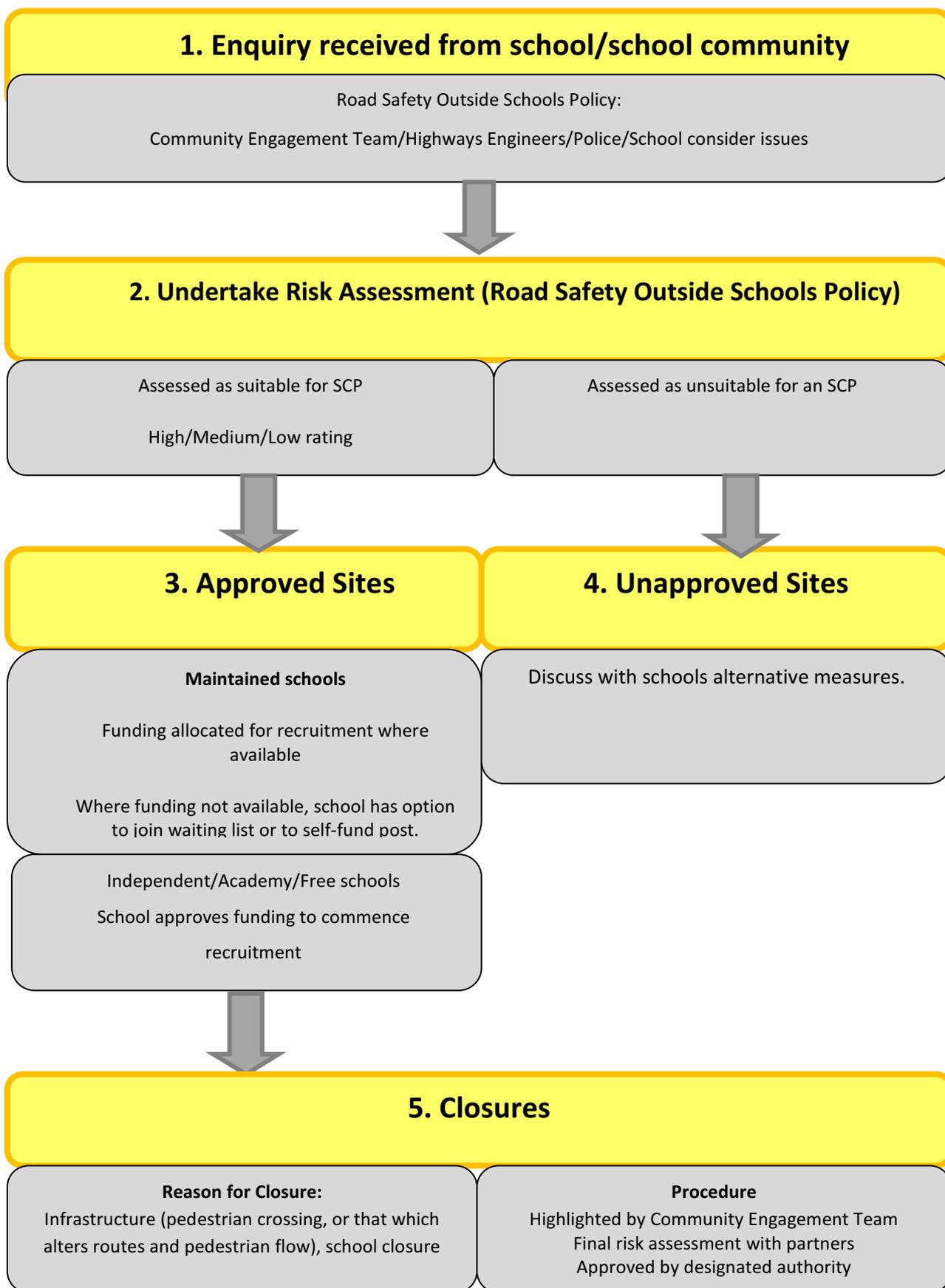
Requests for new SCP sites can come from various sources: schools, Elected Members, local communities, members of the public.

Any request of this nature will be investigated under the Road Safety Outside School Policy. A risk assessment will be carried out in accordance with that policy to help determine the type of measure(s) appropriate to that site. This will be led by the Sustainability Community Engagement Team, with input from County Council and Police colleagues as required.

If the outcome of a risk assessment suggests that an SCP is the most appropriate measure at a site, the site will be prioritised as being high, medium or low risk. It is the intention of the Council to fund all approved SCP sites at maintained schools, although this is only possible where there is sufficient funding. If there is a shortfall in available funding, priority will be given to high risk sites, over medium and, in turn, low.

For Independent, Academy and Free schools a charge of £3,000 per annum will be made to cover the cost of salary, uniform and training.

New Sites (or review of current site) and Closure Process



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How to Get in Touch about School Crossing Patrols

If you would like more specific information about School Crossing Patrols, please get in touch with Surrey County Council's Community Engagement Team via the county council's contact centre 03456 009 009.