

schoolorganisation

From: Maria Young <mariayoung2013@hotmail.co.uk>
Sent: 11 November 2017 12:39
To: schoolorganisation
Subject: School transport review

To whom it may concern

While I understand the need to cut costs/get vfm etc. I think the new draft policy unfairly penalises the families of children with SEN.

Finding the right school for your child with SEN is very hard. Provision in schools varies dramatically. I know this as someone who has worked in more than eight schools across the county over the last ten years and as a parent with a child with SEN.

Children with SEN are often complex. They might have a clear physical disability, but their learning or social needs will vary dramatically. So a child with a physical disability may not necessarily be best suited to a school with a PD base for example. Any professional working with SEN children will know this. I don't need to recount the many and varied permutations of SEN out there.

To add to that decision making the cost of getting your child to that school is unfair. Some families may well be able to afford it, in which case they should pay. But many, many families with children with SEN are under financial strain. The stress of bringing up children with SEN often fractures families and the number of single parent families bringing up children with SEN is high.

There does not appear to be enough flexibility in your policy to protect vulnerable families.

If SEN provision in all Dorset schools was good, this would be a fair policy, but it is not and nor could it ever be. It is not cost effective to have the specialist provision required to meet the needs of all children in all schools. It makes far more sense to build pockets of expertise and resources and send the children the appropriate children to those places.

Inevitably this means transport costs. But that has to be much cheaper than providing for every specialist need in every locality.

Alternatively you do what this Council is doing: call it inclusion, penalise family choice and in effect do not provide properly for the needs of the child. This reduces the positive life chances of an already disadvantaged child. So that individual is then less able to lead an independent life and instead remain a disillusioned, disadvantaged burden on the welfare state for the rest of their life.

This is a backward policy. All research tells us that quality early intervention dramatically improves life chances. This policy, had it been in effect 10 years ago would have had an extremely negative effect for my child because he would not have been able to attend the pre-school and school that was best suited to him. So, I am sure it will have a real impact for families.

As a teacher I work hard to achieve the best outcomes for all the children I teach, many of whom have SEN. There is a limit to what we can achieve and I regularly see children that I know would be much better suited to a different educational environment, where they could gain the skills they need. I wouldn't want to see these children's educational choices limited further, by concerns over the cost of getting their child to that place.

If the Education Authority could say they have strong and varied SEN provision across the county they would have a case for this policy. But honestly they do not and I really don't think they need me to tell them that.

Sent from my iPad

schoolorganisation

From: Josh Turner <josh.turner01@outlook.com>
Sent: 06 November 2017 19:57
To: schoolorganisation
Subject: Transport Consultation Comments

Hi there,

The only comments I have about the transport policy are the following;

- There needs to be more substitution of fees for everyone.
- The bus services need to be more reliable

Many thanks,
Josh

schoolorganisation

From: ANNETTE CRADDOCK <cradnet@btinternet.com>
Sent: 01 December 2017 09:17
To: schoolorganisation
Subject: School transport policy

I only have one concern, and that is your plan to dispose of need for Passenger Assistants. I do think they provide an important service. Although it is reasonable to expect parents carers to be responsible for getting their children on and off the bus, PAs are needed on the bus to ensure safety. They do have an important job in keeping calm in the bus. The occupants on our sons bus has gone up from 4 to 8, and so the activity and "bustle" created on the bus morning and afternoon, can on some days be quite hectic, and the pa does a good job in keeping calm so as not to distract the driver.

And you will always need an adult on the bus to ensure children keep safe during the journey. Without a pa doing this, the safety of all occupants can be compromised.

Annette Craddock
Broadmayne

schoolorganisation

From: Jessica Rees <jesscorrinerrees@icloud.com>
Sent: 25 November 2017 09:21
To: schoolorganisation
Cc: lynsey Dunsby
Subject: School transport consultation
Attachments: Children in cars at 'far greater risk from fumes' than walking Guardian article.docx; ATT00001.htm

Dear consultation team,

We are Jess Rees and Lynsey Dunsby - the mothers of two children who use school transport on a daily basis.

Like several other parents, we are deeply unhappy about the fact that our children have to use this school transport at all. Our children were not given a local school place, despite the fact that the multi-million pound school Twynham Primary is being built on our doorstep, and that this school was very willing to educate our children. Because the school we have been allocated is so far from home, we have been forced to accept the free transport option from the Council.

Our children have to use the route from West Christchurch to Burton C of E School. After it became clear that the length of each journey would far exceed the 45 minutes journey time, the Council's travel team amended the route so that the pick up and drop off points are close to our houses; while we hate the situation, the nearby bus stops makes this process easier for us. We would also like to report that the driver and his team at Dorset Community Travel have been excellent.

We have two main issues with the service. The first is the length of journey, which is unacceptably long for such young children to endure twice a day. The second issue is the safety of the children, who take this twice daily journey unaccompanied.

The length of the school journey

We have to leave the house by 8am to catch the bus, which doesn't arrive at school until 8.40am. The journey home is often longer, with the children usually arriving around or just after 4pm. The children already find the week at school extremely tiring. This long journey adds to the length of the day our children endure; by the end of each day they are absolutely exhausted. We use a satellite navigation tracking system (purchased by Lynsey) which shows us how far away the bus is; I'm sure other parents spend considerable time waiting at bus stops on days when there is heavy traffic in Christchurch returning from Burton.

Unaccompanied children

The other key issue we have is that our 4 year olds are unaccompanied on the bus, which is inappropriate for children so small. We believe that there are 7 children on the bus who are 6 or under; most of whom are just 4 years old.

Since we began using the service in September, there have been several reports of fighting and silliness on the bus. The driver cannot be responsible for policing this. He has to drive on busy roads to get to the school and back, and cannot intervene until parents are notified at drop offs. There have been occasions when our children have been upset and crying before making a journey, and understandably they get called a 'baby'

by the other bus users who didn't want to endure their sobbing. This of course only worsens their upset; not a great way for the children to start the school day.

Our children were given sweets to and from school by older children when they first started using the bus. Although this has stopped now due to school intervention, it is indicative of the type of thing that can happen when the children go unsupervised.

The noise that the children create is dangerously high, causing upset to some users and a distraction to the driver. I would like to state that these are not especially naughty children causing this noise; they are unsupervised 4 year olds who are bored on these long journeys.

If the children feel sick or need to use the toilet, there is little the driver can do. The children regularly come off the bus desperate to use the toilet after the long journey, racing to get back home to make the toilet in time.

We would also at this point like to raise the issue of the effects of pollution that they endure while sitting in heavy traffic (see the attached article from The Guardian). This is a matter that is important to us, and one that we brought to the Council's attention when appealing to be educated locally. Should you need any more information about this please just ask.

Asides from the ethical and environmental problems we have sending our children so far away, we hope that this short email highlights some of the practical issues we have with the service.

We hope you consider these issues as part of your consultation.

Jessica Rees and Lynsey Mearns

Children in cars 'at far greater risk from fumes' than walking

**Ex-government science adviser's stark warning
UK on trial for failing to tackle illegal air pollution**

**Damian Carrington
Environment editor**

Children are at risk of dangerous levels of air pollution in cars because exposure to toxic air is often far higher inside than outside vehicles, a former government chief scientific adviser has warned.

Prof Sir David King's warning comes as the UK government faces a third defeat in the courts for failing to tackle illegal levels of air pollution, which is known to damage children's developing lungs but which recent research also indicates harms their ability to learn at school and may damage DNA. Walking or cycling to school would be much better for children's health, said King.

"Children sitting in the back seat of vehicles are likely to be exposed to dangerous levels," he said. "You may be driving a cleaner vehicle but your children are sitting in a box collecting toxic gases from all the vehicles around you."

He said new legislation to ban smoking in cars with children had gained widespread support. "So why are we still happy for our children to breathe in toxic emissions in the back of our cars? The best

thing for all our health is to leave our cars behind," added King, who now advises the British Lung Foundation.

"It's been shown that the health benefits of walking and cycling far outweigh the costs of breathing in pollution. If more drivers knew the damage they could be doing to their children, I think they'd think twice about getting in the car."

A range of experiments, some as far back as 2001, have shown that drivers inside vehicles are exposed to far higher levels of air pollution than those walking or cycling along the same urban routes.

Prof Stephen Holgate, an asthma expert at the University of Southampton, who chairs the Royal College of Physicians working party on air pollution, said there was enough evidence to tell parents that walking and cycling exposes their children to less air pollution than driving.

"It is nine to 12 times higher inside the car than outside," he said. "Often the car has the fans on, just sucking fresh exhaust coming out of the car or lorry in front of them straight into the back of the car."

Children are more vulnerable than adults, he said, because air pollution can stunt the growth of their lungs and because it can increase the risk of asthma and other respiratory conditions.

Holgate said walking or cycling are better when possible, to reduce pollution exposure in cars and to increase physical exercise. He said: "There are multiple benefits to be gained. But parents are confused at the moment because they think there is less pollution in cars than outside, which is not the case."

Ben Barratt from King's College London measured the exposure of people travelling by car, bus, bicycle and walking in London in 2014. "The car driver, by a very long way, was exposed to the highest level of pollution," he said. "The fumes from the vehicles in front and behind were coming into the car and getting trapped there. It is not true that you can escape pollution by sitting inside a vehicle."

Levels of nitrogen dioxide, emitted mostly by diesel vehicles, have been above legal limits in almost 90% of urban areas in the UK since 2010. The toxic fumes are estimated to cause 23,500 early deaths a year and the problem has been called a public health emergency by a cross-party committee of MPs.

The environmental law firm ClientEarth has defeated ministers twice in the courts over the adequacy of government air quality plans. Ministers' latest proposals were published on 5 May but were widely condemned as inadequate, and ClientEarth is now suing the government again.

"Air pollution hasn't been taken seriously," said Holgate. "There is a very strange situation where the government has to make laws by being taken to court repeatedly. In my view it is really quite appalling that we haven't started to deal with this properly and put children's and adults' health first."

This week is the British Lung Foundation's Breathe Easy Week and a National Clean Air day in the UK takes place on Thursday.

Take a deep breath ...

12x

Asthma expert Prof Stephen Holgate estimates exposure to air pollution is nine to 12 times higher inside a car than outside

23,500

The number of early deaths a year believed to be caused by diesel vehicles' excess nitrogen dioxide emissions



Air pollution damages children's lungs, but can also effect learning and DNA

schoolorganisation

From: Tracey Colquhoun <colquhoun@hotmail.co.uk>
Sent: 30 November 2017 10:55
To: schoolorganisation
Subject: Response to the Dorset admission and transport consultation

Dear Sirs/Madams,

We wish to add our opinions to the consultation in respect of Dorset County Council's Home School Transport Policy 2018-2019. Our response is as follows:

It is good that The Purbeck School is to remain a catchment school for Swanage children which will enable them to receive free transport to and from school. However we are aware that The Swanage School responded to the previous transport consultation (2017-18) in which they called for free transport to be withdrawn from eligible children travelling to The Purbeck School. They argue that they are the nearest school for children in Swanage therefore transport should no longer be free for children travelling to Wareham. At a DCC Cabinet meeting in January 2017 it was minuted that further discussion of this would take place in Autumn 2017. The Swanage School minutes of their full governing body are publicly available on their website and in their 24.5.17 minutes they state their intention to take the matter to judicial review if necessary. This is a worry for us. We are residents of Swanage and currently have two children at The Purbeck School. We strongly oppose a change to the current policy and feel that the free transport should remain because:

1. During the Purbeck review, where schools were reorganised from three to two tier, officers at DCC gave both written and verbal assurances that The Purbeck School would remain a catchment school for Swanage following the opening of The Swanage School and therefore free transport would continue for eligible year 7-11 pupils.
2. The Purbeck School and The Swanage School currently offer choice for families in Swanage. This was one of the principle arguments that the founders and supporters of The Swanage School put forward for having a school here. If free transport to The Purbeck School is withdrawn then for many families this all important choice will be removed. Some may be obliged to send their children to The Swanage School for example, because they cannot afford the transport costs even if they prefer The Purbeck School for academic or other reasons.
3. The Purbeck School is a well established school that goes from strength to strength. It has served Swanage and its surrounding communities for over 30 years. The Swanage School is a free school that was set up in 2013 by members of the local community in response to the removal of the three tier system. It's human scale ethos suits some but not all of us. The Purbeck School offers a broader choice of curriculum, extensive and refurbished facilities and a larger pupil peer group. This may not suit those who prefer a smaller school but surely this is why the choice should remain and not placed under threat by the withdrawal of transport to The Purbeck School. The existence of The Swanage School should not disadvantage those of us who prefer to remain with Swanage's historic catchment school.
4. The Purbeck School has a very good recent academic record. Its Progress 8 figure of 0.36 in 2017 has placed it joint second in Dorset's local education authority for its performance. The Swanage School 2016 Progress 8 figure meant it too was in the top performing bracket, however we note this is not the case this academic year.

We hope you will consider our response to your consultation.

Kind regards
Tracey Colquhoun and John O'Brien

Sent from my iPad

schoolorganisation

From: Jane Colquhoun <janecolquhoun@icloud.com>
Sent: 07 November 2017 13:19
To: schoolorganisation
Subject: Transport to Purbeck School

Sir,

I am writing to voice my concerns about the proposal to you from the Swanage School governors to change the school Transport arrangements for Swanage children to travel to The Purbeck School in Wareham.

I feel strongly that if Swanage children are denied free transport to Wareham their educational opportunities will be seriously restricted. Though I believe you might wish to do this in order to bring the policy in line with other parts of the country, it will contradict the original policies for creating the new free school- to give choice.

Any changes will not affect my children now though my child attended Purbeck school. I would not have chosen the Swanage school because by GCSE the small size of the Swanage school would mean my child's options would have been reduced. The Swanage school can not offer all the subjects.

My other concern is that the Swanage school would not be big enough to offer a place to all of Swanage's children. That would create problems with admissions as some children would then have to go to Purbeck school. How would the admissions process work to ensure that choice would be fair?

Even parents who have chosen the Swanage School that I have spoken to are not happy about their choices being reduced in this way.

I would hope that you will continue to honour the existing transport arrangements and continue to enable Purbeck parents to be able to choose.

Best regards

Jane Colquhoun

Sent from my iPhone

schoolorganisation

From: Ingrid King <i.king@swanageprimary.dorset.sch.uk>
Sent: 06 November 2017 21:08
To: schoolorganisation
Subject: Free transport from Swanage to Purbeck School

Dear Sirs

I would like to raise my concerns re: continued free transport for school children from Swanage to the Purbeck School. I feel it is essential that The Purbeck School remains within the catchment school for Swanage children in order to give families a choice between schools. Both of my children attend Purbeck school. It was not even an option that they attend Swanage Free school!

At The Purbeck School they have much more opportunity and all-round quality teaching, as well as far better facilities. I believe my children are making far better progress in their learning at our chosen school. The Purbeck School have proven higher success rates and it would be very unfair to expect all families in Swanage to have to make the choice of Swanage School purely because it is the nearest school. The Swanage School does not appeal to everyone. It cannot offer a full range of GCSE courses. It offers a different style of learning, not suited to all. It would also not be able to hold all of the Swanage school children either. It is essential that the free transport to Purbeck School remains to ensure a fair choice.

Kind regards
I.King

schoolorganisation

From: Jenny Godfrey <jennygodfrey1975@yahoo.co.uk>
Sent: 06 November 2017 18:19
To: schoolorganisation
Subject: School transport

I think it's imperative that the parents in Swanage retain the right to have free transport to the Purbeck School - I also think Post 16 transport should be free now education is compulsory until 18 Thanks Jenny Godfrey

Sent from my iPhone

schoolorganisation

From: Mr A. Darley <ADarley@purbeck.dorset.sch.uk>
Sent: 06 November 2017 17:35
To: schoolorganisation
Subject: Consultation for the Home to School Transport Policy 2019/20 from The Purbeck School
Attachments: The Purbeck School response home school transport.docx

Dear sir

I would like to submit the following to the Dorset consultation on School Admission Arrangements and Home to School Transport Policies for 2019/2020 on behalf of The Purbeck School.

This submission is largely a response to a proposed Home to School Transport submission that was put to DCC by The Swanage School. Although this submission has not be identified as part of the consultation The Purbeck School would like our submission put on record.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Adam Darley

Headteacher
The Purbeck School

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Adam Darley, Headteacher

This is a response to the DCC consultation regarding the Home to School Transport policy for 2019/20 – this response from The Purbeck School takes into account a submission sent to DCC by The Swanage School regarding ‘admissions policy including school transport policy’ dated 11/11/16. We would like to strongly contest the assumptions made in their submission.

The Purbeck School would like to respond to the main points in The Swanage School submission and then finish with some concluding comments:

1. Response to the recommendation by The Swanage School that DCC should provide transport to and from the whole of The Purbeck School catchment area to The Swanage School.

The Swanage School was opened due to the demand in the Swanage area. There was no formal demand for a free school to be opened in any other part of the surrounding region within The Purbeck School catchment area (Bovington, Wool etc). To suggest that there might now be demand for this is baseless and carries no weight of any long term substantial evidence and was not the case made in the original documents relating to The Swanage School. Indeed The Swanage School proposal was based on a need in the Swanage area.

As the DFE own guidance suggests when establishing a Free School

‘All free school applicants must provide evidence that there is a need or demand for their proposed free school in their area’

(DFE website)

In this case ‘their area’ was identified as Swanage and so the Swanage catchment area was established. In The Swanage Schools own rationale for being established they state the harm that they believe can be caused by having to transport students across Dorset:

‘... local children will have to make a round trip of at least 20 miles a day to access their nearest secondary school [The Purbeck School]... We [The Swanage School] believe that it is not in the educational or social interests of children and young people to make such lengthy journeys away from their community each day’

(The Swanage School - Exceptional Application, DFE doc 2013)

Indeed one of the ‘key aims’ of The Swanage School was to have:

‘Sound environmental principles.... reducing waste, reducing energy, sourcing locally grown food, encouraging pupils and staff to walk and cycle to school’

(The Swanage School - Exceptional Application, DFE doc 2013)

To widen the catchment area for The Swanage School and change the transport policy on the document provided by The Swanage School would certainly not be cost effective, it is evidentially floored, and goes against the very principles on which The Swanage School itself was established.





Adam Darley, Headteacher

2. Response to the recommendation that the Purbeck School should no longer have DCC buses to and from the Swanage catchment area as this is not cost effective and The Swanage School can provide for all Swanage students

There is currently a genuine choice for Swanage residents, the two schools are very different in ethos, culture, and approach (this is one of the reasons The Swanage School was established on a Human Scale mantra). There are a whole raft of trips, educational experiences, subject choices, 6th form opportunities that The Purbeck School offers that are not offered at The Swanage School, in turn The Swanage School pride themselves on being a small, human scale secondary school. The two schools do not offer the same educational ethos or experience. Currently the majority of parents in Swanage are opting for The Purbeck School (2016/17 1st parent choice data). Therefore, changing this would effectively take away choice and the go against the wishes of many parents and students in the Swanage area. The document provided by The Swanage School suggests that they provide 'high quality educational provision' insinuating that Swanage students may not receive high quality education elsewhere. Indeed when The Swanage School was established it was stated educational outcomes as one of the key reasons:

'We [The Swanage School] also want to drive up standards of educational achievement in the area. The nearest secondary school, 10 miles away [The Purbeck School], came second from bottom in league tables published in January 2011 for both GCSE and CVA scores'
(The Swanage School - Exceptional Application, DFE doc 2013)

To insinuate that this is the case today is at best misleading. The Purbeck School has a track record of producing excellent student outcomes. In the last three years The Purbeck School has been in the top 20% of schools nationally (Progress 8 at 0.48 / 0.26/ and 0.36 for 2017/18). These are with cohorts of students of between 180 and 200 students. The Swanage Schools most recent set of results place them on a -0.18 Progress 8 score – over half a grade below The Purbeck School. Both schools are OFSTED graded as 'Good'. No child would be educationally disadvantaged by coming to The Purbeck School in fact the evidence would suggest the very opposite.

Therefore, to suggest that Swanage parents should not have the choice of The Purbeck School, which this proposal would enforce if buses were stopped from the Swanage area to The Purbeck School, would be of huge detriment to the Swanage community, would have no local public support, and be against the very principles of establishing a Free School to allow choice and parental preference.





3. How the home school was proposed by DCC when The Swanage School was established

This very question was raised by concerned parents of The Purbeck School when the The Swanage School was established. In an email exchange from 2012 a direct question was asked of Rick Perry (then DCC Children's Services Director) by a parent of a student at The Purbeck School:

'Also involved in this matter is the subject of free school buses for Swanage children attending the Purbeck School. Since Purbeck became the secondary school that serves Swanage in the 1970s, children have been provided with free school transport to Wareham up to the age of 16 and I wish to have a definitive answer that this will continue, despite there being a secondary school in Swanage.'

He replied:

'Parents from Swanage will still have the option of expressing a preference for the Purbeck School, even when the free school is in place. There will not be an expectation that ALL Swanage children must go to the free school even if the preference is for the Purbeck School. In short, if parents express a preference for the Purbeck School this will be honoured and children will not be forced to attend any specific institution. The same applies to free transport. If a child is entitled to free transport then assuming they continue to meet the criteria, this will remain the case.

Swanage will remain in the catchment area for the Purbeck school. The only difference is it will also be in the catchment area for the free school e.g a shared catchment area.'

(email exchange with Rick Perry, Project Manager, Childrens Services Directorate, Dorset County Council 10/4/12)

Concluding thoughts:

The Swanage School document sets out that a principle is at stake. We would agree that this principle was outlined and understood by all in 2012 when DCC categorically assured the Purbeck community that there would be no change in the bus provision. The reality is that The Swanage School now find themselves in a position where they simply do not have enough parents choosing their school. The Purbeck School is cumulatively 60 students short in Years 9/10/11, these students are at The Swanage School, and we have borne the economic reductions that come with this. Over the past number of years we have cut our cloth accordingly, we have made redundancies, not replaced staff, and reduced our PAN. The Swanage School finds itself in a position that is the reality of the modern schooling system. There is no principle at stake, the only principles that are being threatened are the original principles by which The Swanage School itself had been established upon and the promises that were made by DCC.

The Purbeck School is a highly popular and educationally successful school that can offer a wide choice of subjects, extra-curricular opportunities, and a track record of excellent results that in 2016/17 significantly outperform those of The Swanage School. As a result The Purbeck School was substantially oversubscribed for 2017/18 and will endeavour to ensure that as many parents as possible receive their first choice of education for their child. We will continue to work alongside our neighbours at The Swanage School and build working





Adam Darley, Headteacher

relationships but cannot agree with their assessment of the transport needs in the region. The free school was established on the principles of local choice for the Swanage community – they are now making that choice. The transport policy should not now change because The Swanage School do not like the results.



schoolorganisation

From: Mark Woolley <mark.woolley@btinternet.com>
Sent: 11 November 2017 12:54
To: schoolorganisation
Subject: Home to School Transport Policy for 2018-2019

Dear Sirs,

We refer to the consultation you are currently holding in respect of Dorset County Council's (DCC) Home to School Transport Policy for 2018-2019 and are responding to this as follows.

We are aware that during the 2017-18 School Transport Consultation a response was received from The Swanage School which was critical of DCC's Transport Policy and called for free school transport to be withdrawn from eligible children travelling to the Purbeck School who lived closer to The Swanage School. This response was referred to in the agenda reports pack for the DCC Cabinet meeting held on 18th January 2017 where it was noted that further discussion should take place during the 2016-17 academic year ahead of further consultation in Autumn 2017, i.e. now. The Full Governing Body of the Swanage School also dealt with this subject at their meeting held on 24th May 2017 where escalating the matter, ultimately for judicial review, was openly discussed. The minutes of this meeting are publicly available on the Swanage School website.

We assume that the Swanage School will make similar representations in respect of your 2018-2019 Transport Policy. As residents of Swanage and the parents of two existing Purbeck School students we strongly feel that, for the following reasons, no changes should be made to the existing policy of providing free school transport for eligible children living in Swanage and attending the Purbeck School:

1. Written and verbal assurances were given during the Purbeck Review (reorganisation from three tier to two tier education) by DCC officers that Swanage would remain in the Purbeck School catchment area after the Swanage School was opened and that free transport would continue to be available to eligible Year 7 to Year 11 pupils.
2. The Purbeck School has served Swanage and the surrounding area well as its secondary school for over 30 years and this should continue. The Swanage School was established by members of the local community in 2013 primarily in response to the closure of Swanage Middle School and the loss of Year 7 and Year 8 education from the town. However, education for all students in Year 9 and above was relocated to Wareham as long ago as 1977. Many parents are unconvinced by the human scale education provided by The Swanage School and understandably prefer the Purbeck School's broader curriculum, larger pupil peer group and more extensive facilities. The existence of the Swanage School should not disadvantage those parents who prefer to remain with Swanage's historic catchment school.
3. The recent academic record of the Purbeck School is very good and its 2017 Progress 8 figure is 0.36 which places it as the joint second best performing school in the Dorset local education authority area (after the Woodroffe School). We note that although the 2016 Progress 8 figure for The Swanage School put it in the top performing school bracket this is certainly not the case this academic year.
4. The principle of parental choice was championed by advocates of The Swanage School when it was set up. Removal of free school transport from eligible children in Swanage travelling to the Purbeck School would remove this choice as it would in effect compel many parents to send their children to the Swanage School for personal financial reasons when they may have chosen the Purbeck School for educational reasons. The Swanage School should be promoting what they see as the relative strengths of their school and not resort to lobbying for changes to the school transport policy in order to boost intake. We feel that this reflects badly on them.

We hope that you find our response to your consultation helpful.

Kind Regards,

Sally and Mark Woolley