

Changes to Transport Entitlement for The Swanage School

School Transport for Swanage School 2016.

The Swanage School was set up as a Free School based on parental demand. At the time it was agreed that transport entitlement would be based on the standard statutory criteria i.e. if you lived over 3 miles shortest walking distance criteria and it being the nearest school. This entitlement was also subject to any other statutory entitlement criteria including the right to transport to one of your nearest three schools subject to it being between 2 and 6 miles shortest walking distance if a family is one working tax credits or Free School Meals. No changes were made to the transport eligibility for families in accessing The Purbeck School.

Why make Changes?

As a result of concerns raised by The Swanage School, the Home to School Transport Policy was revised to ensure consistency across all relevant secondary and upper schools and ensure that where appropriate all schools had a catchment area for transport purposes, thus catchment transport eligibility applied to all secondary schools.

All Secondary Schools in Dorset have a catchment structure where, in the main, this overlays the catchment of a series of primary schools. The output of the primary schools would mirror where possible the Pupil Admission Number (PAN) of the Secondary School that they feed as a minimum.

An example would be where a Secondary School has a pupil admission number of 210. Their catchment and the year 6 output of their feeder primary schools would reflect this with the following hypothetical structure:

5 primary schools - 2 have approximately 60 students in Year 6 – 120 total

2 having approximately 30 students in Year 6 – 60 total

2 have approximately 15 in year 6 – 30 total

Thus there is a reasonable match between Year 6 primary output (total 210) and the secondary schools PAN 210.

The Proposed Changes

In the case of the Swanage School a similar principle was used in setting the Home to School Transport policy for 2018-2019. The School has a PAN of 84. There are 3 local primary schools, Swanage Primary (30), Swanage St. Mark's Primary (30), St. Mary's RC Primary (30) that have a combined output of 90 at Year 6 (assuming the schools are full). Given the geographic proximity of St. Georges Primary, Langton

Matravers to the Swanage School, having a cohort size of 15, it was felt pragmatic to include this school as well.

So the catchment transport area was set as the being the catchment area of these 4 schools with a total combined output of 105 students against a PAN of 84 at the Swanage School. Essentially this covered the catchment of Swanage Primary, Swanage St. Mark's and St George's, as St. Mary's RC does not have a catchment area being a Roman Catholic Primary School. This area is slightly larger than the Swanage School could accommodate were all families to select the school for Year 7 entry but this thus takes into account the possibility that some families in the area may still exercise their right to transport to the Purbeck School.

So the transport catchment area was set as per the attached map – green shaded area.

This means that The Swanage School, for transport purposes, is being treated in the same way as other secondary schools – in that there is a bespoke area within which families are entitled to transport regardless of proximity to another school.

The catchment areas of these primary schools will also remain within the catchment area of the Purbeck School, both for admissions and transport purposes, as this ensures the right of families to continue to gain transport to their historical KS3 and KS4 school provision. Again there are instances in Dorset where families are entitled to school transport to two schools.

This change also ensures that families within the transport catchment area for The Swanage School are not disadvantaged should they be living closer to the Purbeck School on a straight line distance. Even though they may be closer to the Purbeck School, their right to transport to the Swanage School is assured if they live within the transport catchment area. Equally it is assured that families that may be outside of the transport catchment area of the Swanage School, but where the Swanage School is the closest school on straight line distance – then families will be entitled to transport – subject to the wider statutory entitlement criteria of being over 3 miles or being on Working Tax credits (or Free School Meals) and being between 2 and 6 miles from the school.

*PAN is the number of students a school takes in at their point of entry.



