

Parents and their Preferences

A final reminder that the deadline for new school place applications is the 15th January 2022, Hampshire County Council is urging parents of children, due to start school in September 2022, to ensure they indicate three school preferences on their application.



Each year our admissions team deals with over 14,000 applications for a place in reception year – the first year of school. From previous years' experience, we know that some parents believe that if they provide just one choice of school on their application, this will give weight to that choice and mean it is more likely they will be successful in being allocated a place at that school, but this is not necessarily the case and a very small number of parents have been left disappointed. Consistently, in recent years, 98 per cent of parents secure a school place for their child at one of their three preferred schools, with between 90 and 93 per cent (over the past five years) being offered a place at their first preference school.

Any parent who has already submitted their application can log back into the online system to amend their application any time before the closing date. It is important to be sure to resubmit the application after making any changes. Anyone who needs to make changes to a paper application, should contact email: admissions.team@hants.gov.uk Parents will be notified of the outcome if they applied online and on time on 19th April 2022 and two to three working days later by letter if they applied using a paper form. More information and guidance about school admissions for parents can be found on the County Council's website: www.hants.gov.uk

Independence Hub

The first in a series of 'Independence Hubs' has opened, offering post-16 education tailored specifically for young people with special education needs and disabilities (SEND). Based within the Alton campus of further education college HSDC, the first Hub, funded by Hampshire County Council, showcases how high quality, specialist provision for young people with severe learning difficulties and complex needs can prepare them for adulthood, focusing on the essential skills needed for independent living, employment and good health.

With over a third of the 13,000 young Hampshire people with Education, Health Care Plans currently in post-16 education, and the forecast predicting this number to rise in the coming years, it is important that the County Council is able to increase the number of inclusive places available for those young people within Hampshire's special schools and further education colleges. Establishing the Hub within the existing college enables the young people attending to positively engage with the wider college curriculum and community. Already, a group who will be moving on from secondary to further education next year is using the unit once a week as part of their transition, ahead of the Hub opening fully in September 2022. Further Independence Hubs are planned to open across the county in 2022 and 2023.

Unpaid Carers

Financial grants continue to be available to support unpaid carers of vulnerable adults. Following a decision by Government earlier in the year to provide additional funding to adult social care, the County Council has chosen to extend their carer grant scheme to March 2022 so they can reach more people who would really benefit. The grants are designed to address the individual carer's needs and reduce the risk of infection; for example, financial help with technology, equipment or personal care. **It is open to anyone providing regular, unpaid care to an adult who lives in the Hampshire County Council area, including young carers (under 18 years) providing care to an adult.** Anyone who has already received a one-off grant is not eligible for further funding. For information on how to apply for a grant, or for practical support, call any of the following:

Andover MIND - 01264 332297 (select option 3). Monday to Friday: 9.00 am – 5.00 pm. enquiries@andovermind.org.uk

The Princess Royal Trust for Carers in Hampshire - 01264 835246. Monday to Thursday: 9.00 am – 5.00 pm / Friday: 9.00 am - 4.30 pm. info@carercentre.com

Carers Together - 01794 519495. Monday to Friday: 9.30am- 3.30pm (answer machine outside these hours). admin@carerstogether.org.uk

For general information on support available to carers visit <https://www.connecttosupporthampshire.org.uk/carers>

New Free Weight Loss Programme – Don't Make Resolutions, Create Habits

A new 12-week weight management programme has been funded by Hampshire County Council for residents who want to achieve a healthier weight. Offering free professional support either in-person, through regular online meetings or via a mobile app, Shapeup4life Hampshire is available to anyone with a body mass index (BMI) of 30 or above and combines exercise and food choices to make positive lifestyle changes rather than a prescriptive diet. The new service forms a key part of the Hampshire Healthy Weight Strategy 2022 to 2026 which aims to change current trends in the prevalence of excess weight and obesity. To find out more, check your BMI and to self-refer, go to - <https://www.shapeup4lifehampshire.co.uk/> - or ring 023 8218 0287/0800 246 5170. The offer applies to anyone living in the Hampshire County Council district, excluding Southampton and Portsmouth.

500+ years of Historic Records available Online

Anyone with Hampshire roots anywhere in the world will be able to learn more about their ancestors thanks to an agreement between Hampshire County Council and Ancestry®, a global leader in family history. As part of the agreement, access to the Ancestry website will be **available free of charge** at Hampshire's public libraries and Record Office from January. You can find out more including opening hours, events and collections by visiting: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/archives>.

Domestic Abuse Support

The Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership is a group of local services in Hampshire, working together to provide help and support for:

- Victims and survivors of abuse
- Children living with domestic abuse
- People who may be abusing or hurting someone
- Professionals seeking advice
- See web page <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/domesticabuse>

Call the Hampshire Domestic Abuse Helpline (run by Stop Domestic Abuse) on 03300 165 112 for advice, help, and access to services, including refuge. In an emergency call 999. If you are worried about your behaviour towards someone else, seek advice from the Hampton Trust's Advice Line on 02380 009898.

Councillor Grants

A reminder that my Councillor Grants fund opened for applications at the beginning of June. Groups and organisations can apply for funding for both revenue (one-off) and minor capital projects. Revenue grants should generally be used to support short term project related costs e.g. a time limited activity group for children. It is expected that the grants will benefit a wide range of groups/activities: for example, vulnerable children or adults, young people, facilities for older people, community facilities, parish councils (but only for specific projects), projects by a school's PTA, local environment projects, community safety, parish churches, etc.

Projects must be discussed with me [by email] BEFORE application is made and RECEIPTED INVOICES MUST BE PROVIDED upon completion. Don't miss out, make your application as soon as you can. See full criteria at – <https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-list/county-councillor>

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