

Primary School Places

The County Council has processed more than 21,000 applications (21,288) for children to start school in reception year (Year R) and to move from infant to their first year of junior education (Year 3).

Just over 98 per cent (98.31 per cent) of parents have been offered a reception year place for their child in one of their three preferred choice schools, with more than 93 per cent (93.25 per cent) allocated a place at their first choice of school.

Of pupils transferring from infant school to junior school (Year 3), more than 99 per cent (99.31 per cent) received a place at one of their three choices, and just over 98 per cent (98.02 per cent) obtained a place at their first choice of school. For the cases where parents have not secured a place at a school of their choice, the County Council has advised them, in their notification, about the right to appeal and the arrangements for their preferred school's waiting list.

Places often become available after the offer day and before September for a variety of reasons, including families moving house or out of the area, or parents choosing to decline the place originally allocated for their child after having secured a place at another school. More information about the admissions process, including how to make an appeal, is available online at www.hants.gov.uk/admissions

Holiday Activities & Food [HAF]

Total funding worth approximately £10m will be allocated to the County Council by the Department for Education to continue running the scheme, which offers healthy food and enriching activities to eligible children during the school holidays – a time when some families struggle with the extra costs, such as food and childcare. In Hampshire, there are over 33,000 children who are potentially eligible for free HAF places.

The HAF programme will continue to make free places available to eligible children for the equivalent of at least four hours a day, four days a week and for six weeks a year. This covers four weeks in the summer and a week's worth of provision in each of the Easter and Christmas holidays. Organisations will also be able to offer additional places to fee paying families.

To support the three-year programme, the commissioning process is changing from termly grant awards to service contracts which will offer more certainty to providers as well as allowing provision to be secured for a full year. Organisations are being invited to join the framework of providers who will have the opportunity to respond to a 'mini competition' to run the activities between now and 2025. These could be schools, childcare providers, community organisations, as well as sports coaching and outdoor education providers.

Families wanting to find out what is on offer locally should search the Family Information and Services Hub - <https://fish.hants.gov.uk/kb5/hampshire/directory/home.page>

Young people Highlight their Key Priorities

Young people across Hampshire voted environmental issues as their top concern in this year's 'Make Your Mark' consultation. Hampshire ranked second in the UK for participation in the consultation, with 17,385 votes cast in total. The results will help to shape what the Hampshire Youth Parliament focuses on locally over the next two years.

Make Your Mark is the largest youth consultation of its kind in the UK and gives all young people aged 11-18 years a chance to have their say on the biggest issues facing them. This year's consultation, which ran from 1 - 28 February, was supported across the County by 36 schools, colleges and youth groups, and nationally by the British Youth Council, UK Parliament and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

Young people in Hampshire were able to vote on a number of topics through the Hampshire Youth Parliament network and, for the second year running, placed 'Environment' at the top of their priorities



with 4,260 votes. Jobs, money, homes and opportunities came in second place with 3,532 votes and health and wellbeing followed closely behind with 3,457 votes. This aligns to the national picture, which saw health and wellbeing and jobs, money, homes and opportunities voted in first and second place respectively. The full breakdown of the results for Hampshire is below:

- **Environment** (Climate Change, Plastic Pollution) - 4,260 votes
- **Jobs, Money, Homes and Opportunities** (More Training and Apprenticeships, Ending Homelessness) - 3,532 votes
- **Health and Wellbeing** (Improved Access to Mental Health Support, End Food Poverty, Conversion Therapy) - 3,457 votes
- **Education and Learning** (Improved Climate Education, Free University, Better Mental Health Education) - 2,706 votes
- **Poverty** (End Child Poverty) - 2,019 votes
- **Our Rights and Democracy** (Votes at 16, Freedom of Speech, Building a Better Relationship Between Young People and Government) - 783 votes
- **Covid-19 Recovery** (Involve young people in the Recovery plan) - 628 votes

The Hampshire results will help to steer the direction of Hampshire Youth Parliament's campaign plans from 2022-2024 which will be published in due course on the Make your Mark webpage - <https://hampshireyp.org.uk/make-your-mark/>

Green Initiatives

The County Council is leading on a range of initiatives to help reduce our carbon emissions and prepare for the impact of climate change. Initiatives to date:

- We are upgrading our street lights to LED
- have piloted on street EV charging in Winchester
- will plant one million trees by 2050
- launched the parish pollinator project
- installed £26m of solar panels, boiler and window upgrades on our schools
- partnered with Community Energy South to support local renewable energy projects

If you would like to get more involved or learn more about Hampshire's Climate Change initiatives:

Join the Greening Campaign <http://www.greening-campaign.org/> The campaign helps communities to reduce their carbon footprint by taking simple actions at a household level, such as reducing energy and water use. The project creates a direct link between the Greening Campaign, communities and local councils.

Swap One to Local - <https://www.hants.gov.uk/swaponetolocal> by making one of our food shops or holidays a local one we can try something new, help our local community, save a few pounds and do our bit for the planet

Decarbonisation Programme

Did you know that Hampshire County Council has a decarbonisation programme for schools totalling £32.5 million? This includes –

Window replacement	83 projects
Oil/Gas burners	18 “
Heating controls	91 “
Solar PV	254 “
Wall cavity insulation	34 “

Welborne Primary School is scheduled to open in September 2025

Patricia Stallard
Hampshire County Councillor
Winchester Southern Parishes
[Denmead, Newlands, Boarhunt, Southwick, Wickham, Knowle, Soberton, Newtown]
pgstallard@aol.com