



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL



School Crossing Patrol Policy

PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL SERVICE

POLICY

BACKGROUND

SCPs were established by the School Crossing SCP Act 1953 and instituted on 1 July 1954 through the School Crossing SCP Order 1954. The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (Sections 26 – 28) gave 'Appropriate Authorities' (defined as county councils, metropolitan district councils, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police and the Common Council of the City of London) the power to appoint SCPs to help children cross the road on their way to or from school, or from one part of a school to another, between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:30 pm.

Section 270 of the Transport Act 2000, which came into force on 30 January 2001, amended the 1984 Regulations to permit SCPs to operate "at such times as the authority thinks fit", and to stop traffic to help anyone (child or adult) to cross the road, whether or not they are travelling to or from school. The same amendments were also introduced in Section 77 of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2001.

There is no legal obligation for local authorities to provide a SCP service but Portsmouth City Council chooses to do so under this legislation. Responsibility for the operation of the service rests with the Road Safety and Active Travel Team, Portsmouth City Council.

PURPOSE OF POLICY

To ensure that School Crossing Patrols are provided on the basis of impartially assessed need.

SCP Provision

Subject to conditions patrols may be provided for infant, junior and primary school children. School Crossing Patrols are not generally provided at Secondary Schools, experience has shown that older children do not find such a service appropriate and other measures need to be considered at these locations. When a request for a patrol service to serve secondary school pupils is received the City Council will work with the school and local community to find the most appropriate solution to any problem.

School Crossing Patrollers are not employed to a specific site, but will be deployed where the need is deemed to be greatest.

SCP Site Requirement

The requirements considered when assessing a proposed school crossing patrol site, in terms of the numbers of children crossing, passing traffic and road conditions, will be in accordance with the recommendations of the current RoadSafetyGB, School Crossing Patrol Service Guidelines.

All sites will be assessed and deemed to be either Gold Standard - site meets criteria on PV² alone, Silver Standard - site meets criteria on PV² and environmental factors or Bronze standard - does not meet criteria and therefore to be decommissioned.

Site Funding

Sites meeting the requirements in the above Gold and Silver Standard categories' will be funded by the City Council where budgets permit, Bronze standard will not receive funding and be decommissioned.

Equipment

All PPE is covered in the Home Office Circular. The current standard is BS EN ISO 20471: 2013, which replaced BS EN 471:2003 on 31 July 2013. (Existing stocks of uniforms complying with BS EN 471 can still be used).

All new patrols will be issued with the following items:

- 1 Peaked Hi-viz winter hat
- 1 Peaked Hi-viz summer hat
- 1 Hi-viz knee length winter coat (Waterproof)
- 1 Hi viz knee length summer coat
- 1 School Crossing Patrol STOP sign

The uniform will be replaced as and when deemed necessary or if it becomes damaged.

Operational Procedures

Only persons who have been trained, reference and DBS checked and judged competent should will be allowed to undertake the role of School Crossing Patroller. All patrollers will be re-assessed on a regular basis to ensure they are complying with the procedures as set out in the latest version of the 'School Crossing Patrol Service Guidelines'.

Site Reviews

All school crossing patrol sites shall be regularly monitored and risk assessed, especially if site conditions alter.

All school crossing patrol sites will receive a supervisory visit and once a term where possible.

SCPs at Academy schools

When a school becomes an Academy, the school will be required to pay the cost of the supply of any SCP staff required for that school, and for admin time related to employing and managing the SCP service for that school. The cost will include recruitment for the vacancy, uniform, managerial time and the salary of the SCP staff member.

Installation of Signal Controlled and Zebra Crossings at SCP sites

Where a controlled crossing is installed at a site where a SCP operates, the Patrol's services would no longer be required due to a possible conflict of directions given to traffic and pedestrians. The SCP would remain at the site of the new signals for the first two weeks of operation to provide suitable instruction for children.

Where a zebra crossing is installed at or near a Patrol site, the Patrol will remain for a two week period to allow suitable instruction for the children.

Once the two week bedding in period is up, the site will be decommissioned.

Where a site does not meet the criteria, the school can request a SCP at their own expense providing the site meets the criteria. The City Council will train, equip, insure and supervise the SCP and the school will cover these costs in addition to the salary of the SCP.

Cover in event of sickness

PCC does not have the resources to cover sickness or other absence and therefore do not operate a relief cover system.

Leave during term time

All Patrols have been informed that leave during term time will not be allowed except in exceptional circumstances. To request Special Leave during term time, the procedure requires a request in writing direct to the School Crossing Patrol Co-ordinator, stating the reasons for the request. The School Crossing Patrol Co-ordinator will consider the nature of the request, the impact to service delivery, cost to the authority and any previous requests of a similar nature. A response will then be provided in writing. If the request is refused and the SCP decided to take the leave, the current Disciplinary procedure will be invoked.