

**Baugh, Ben**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 07 January 2014 19:46  
**To:** Baugh, Ben  
**Subject:** Herefordshire Schools Transport - questions regarding proposed policy change

Dear Mr Baugh

My son attends John Masefield High School, and we live in a village affected by the proposed changes. I fully support the objections raised by the submission made by the school; in addition I would like to raise the following questions regarding the proposed changes:

1. It is my understanding that there is no plan to change the catchment areas for the school in Herefordshire, Gloucestershire or Worcestershire. This will mean that pupils who have to attend schools outside their county because there is no transport to their school in catchment, will have the lowest priority when assessed for admission to schools in neighbouring catchment areas.

These Herefordshire children will effectively be condemned to attending the least popular schools in neighbouring counties (as these will be the schools with spare places after the children within the catchment area have been placed). This seems very unfair, and effectively creates a situation of discrimination against children living in Herefordshire villages, which could impair their education and hence limit their future opportunities. How will Herefordshire Council ensure that our children do not suffer discrimination under the catchment system due to their change in policy?

2. If Herefordshire children have to attend out of county schools as proposed there may not be sufficient school places available for some pupils in neighbouring catchments, or the only school with available places may be further away than their current Herefordshire school. Are there plans for Herefordshire Council to negotiate an agreement with neighbouring counties to provide additional school places for our children, within a reasonable distance?

I would be very grateful if you would raise these issues at the planned meeting of the General Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 15th January.

Thank you in anticipation

[REDACTED]