



THE PORTSMOUTH GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Isle of Wight Collection and Drop Off Service for pupils

To ensure peace of mind for parents of children travelling to and from the Isle of Wight, we offer a collection and drop off service for children aged 12 years old and under.

Hovertravel say that children under the age of 13 are not allowed to travel independently on their hovercraft unless a designated adult is available to oversee drop off and collection on both sides of the crossing. Our service covers children's morning and home-time commutes to satisfy this requirement.

We can also collect and drop off children under 7 years of age **as long as they are accompanied on the hovercraft by a person aged 13 years or over nominated by a parent or guardian.**

How does our service work?

- Children between the age of 7 and 12 can travel on the hovercraft unaccompanied as long as arrangements have been made for them to be met on the Portsmouth side by a member of The Portsmouth Grammar School staff or at the Isle of Wight Ryde terminal by a parent/guardian.
- After school, children using the service will be delivered by the school to the hovercraft terminal at the agreed time.
- The exact timings will be agreed with those using the service and will be dependent on their needs and the number of pupils using the service. Where possible, timings will be adapted to suit a child's timetable.
- It is, at all times, the responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure that the child travels with a suitable ticket, including in the event that the service is suspended where alternative travel arrangements (such as the FastCat) need to be made. If this happens, the child will need to present their Hovertravel pass to staff at the FastCat terminal.

When does the service run?

- In the mornings, the school will meet pupils travelling on the 0745 hovercraft from Ryde to Portsmouth.
- The school will accompany pupils at the end of the school day to the hoverport in Portsmouth ready for the 1600 trip to Ryde.
- The school will also accompany pupils at the end of after school activities to the hoverport in Portsmouth ready for the 1700 trip to Ryde. Later timings can be organised by mutual agreement for clubs which finish after 1700 although this not extend beyond a drop off to catch the 1730 crossing.
- The service runs Monday-Friday and not during the weekends or holiday periods.

When can a child travel unaccompanied?

Children aged 7 to 12 years old inclusive may only travel unaccompanied if a parent or guardian has made themselves known to the Ticket Office at the destination terminal before the hovercraft is due to depart. Children less than 7 years old must be accompanied by a person aged 13 years or older.

Will there be a contact number to use?

- The member of staff accompanying children to and from the hovercraft has a mobile phone. Parents using the service will be provided with the number.
- Pupils will need to check in with the staff member 10 minutes prior to departure at school.

What if the hovercraft isn't running?

- In bad weather, the hovercraft may be cancelled. In this event, the school will collect and drop off from the Fastcat port instead. All other arrangements remain the same allowing for fluctuations in timings.
- The Fastcat will not accept unaccompanied children under the age of 12. It is the parents' responsibility to arrange for a suitable adult to accompany any children under that age on the Fastcat or the ferry.

What is the cost of the Drop Off and Pick up Service?

- Costs are entirely covered by the school.

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