



INDEPENDENT TRAVEL

Education Information



SWINDON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Introduction:

The Independent Travel offer will improve, and enhance, life skills and independence for the Children and Young People (CYP) that you work with within the Swindon Borough Council area. The training is completed on a 1:1 basis aimed at supporting CYP. Training is individualised to meet need. The travel support takes into account accessibility, timings and locations.

Who qualifies?

Any CYP with an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) who is eligible for travel support under our policy. This can be found by scanning the code here.



Benefits to you:

Through the training, we aim to free up resource within the setting by supporting the individual growth of each CYP. This will give them more freedom to develop their skills and responsibilities within their setting, and supporting the development of independence for the CYP.





Benefits to CYP:

Confidence – An increase in confidence, not only around travel but with interaction with others.

Lifestyle benefits – This could be an array of benefits, whether they are leisure based or otherwise. This can also promote healthier lifestyles through more walking and other activities being completed.

Increased wider opportunities – Through access to independent travel, this can help promote opportunities to CYP such as; access to employment, further education and exploration of the local area.

Increased independence – The ability to travel alone and to other destinations.

Where and how the training takes place?

This begins with an initial home visit to meet the CYP and their parent/carer(s). This is where discussions will begin around the training and the options (see below) that may/may not be taken.

Training is completed on an agreed pre-planned route and done following the most appropriate travel option. The training will be completed through a series of 1:1 training sessions, leading to observations and finally just a 'meet and greet'. Prior to the CYP being signed off, we assess and observe to ensure that we are confident in their ability.





Training includes:



Road safety and awareness – Sessions to ensure that the CYP has a basic knowledge and understanding of road safety and awareness. This can be delivered in groups or 1:1.



Route planning – As part of the training we will be completing route planning to ensure that the CYP is aware that there could be multiple routes to a destination. This will look at the safest route to take.



Risk assessment/management – We ensure that CYP have a risk assessment (where needed) which is undertaken as part of the training. We will ensure that we understand what risks apply and how to mitigate and manage these risks. Alongside this we will look at how some risks will be outside of the CYP's control.



Problem solving – Within the training, there could be times when problem solving skills need to be applied. The training will address how this can be put in place, through real life scenarios and also what-if scenarios? Eg: buses being late or break down, road closures.





Travel Training Options:



Walking – CYP will begin their training by being collected from their home and taken through their agreed route, being dropped off at your education setting. This is then repeated to go home from the setting.

Bus – This option will involve using the local bus service to get to your educational setting. With this option, there will be interaction with the general public. This option will be pre-planned to allow for getting to the bus stop and then onto the education setting.

Train – In some cases, CYP may be required to travel by train. If so, we will ensure that they are able to get to and from the train station and are taught how to buy tickets and board the train in a safe manner.

Cycling – If CYP are completing their route through cycling, they will be shown safe cycling techniques and routes. This will again be from their home to your education setting and then back again.

Mixed Options – This will be a blended approach of the options listed above. This will be delivered to ensure that CYP have the best possible experience with getting to your destination.





How they will be assessed and what support is given?

To complete the training, CYP will be assessed on a range of criteria to ensure that they are not only safe but are also confident with the varying stages of travel involved. For example, being able to point out significant landmarks, which may help to highlight when their stop is coming up on the bus.



Progress log to be maintained – This will highlight the daily progression being made within the training, for example – getting on the bus.



Shadowing – We will be able to shadow from a safe distance or use another trainer to assess to ensure that all steps are being followed.



Risk Assessments in place (where appropriate) – These will be detailed and highlight risks that may be in place and how to manage those risks including those risks outside of the CYP's control.



Quiz – Post training, CYP will be asked to complete a 'What-if?' quiz, which highlights the learning they have had and the scenarios that they may face.



1:1 support for agreed journey, start to finish – Ensuring that the CYP has the right level of support for the journey.



Bespoke training to suit each CYP's skills and option – As part of the ongoing training, we will review each CYP's circumstances on a case by case basis, looking at the way in which we can best support the CYP for successful engagement and completion of the course.

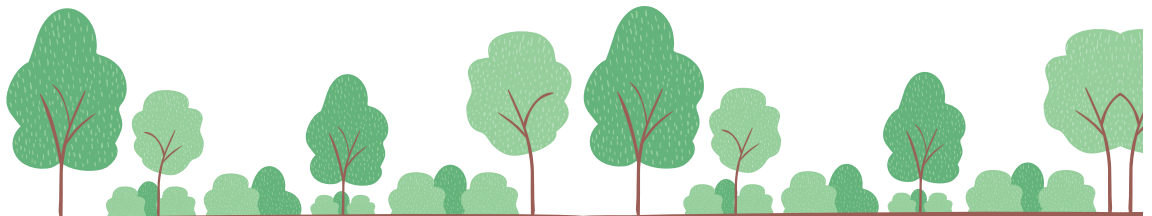
Relevant training to assist with the journey that will be undertaken.

Post Training:

After the completion of the training we will check in with you and the CYP. This will help us to understand whether they are still independently travelling.

There will be an option for CYP to join our 'Champions' which will help to offer peer advice and support to others looking to complete the training.

Further stretch and development activities are currently being planned to help embed the training and add continued development opportunities for CYP.





FAQs:



Cost of the programme? It is free for eligible CYP as per the home to school travel policy.



Will training have an effect on current travel arrangements?

Once the training is completed, current arrangements will be changed to the identified travel option.



Can CYP access further training? Yes, although further training will be a part of the traded service.



The CYP goes to college in Cirencester, will you help them go that far on their own? Yes, if this is the CYP's designated provision.



The CYP's parent worries about them going on the bus on their own, will you talk to the parent and tell her the CYP will be safe? The trainer will ring them – as part of the process we will meet with the CYP and their parent/carer(s) and discuss the steps and how the CYP will be kept safe whilst training.



Does it always have to be to school? Currently yes, the focus is on home to school/college.



The CYP would like to do a bit more, can this happen?

Yes, once the CYP has completed their Independent Travel Training, we can offer further services via traded service.

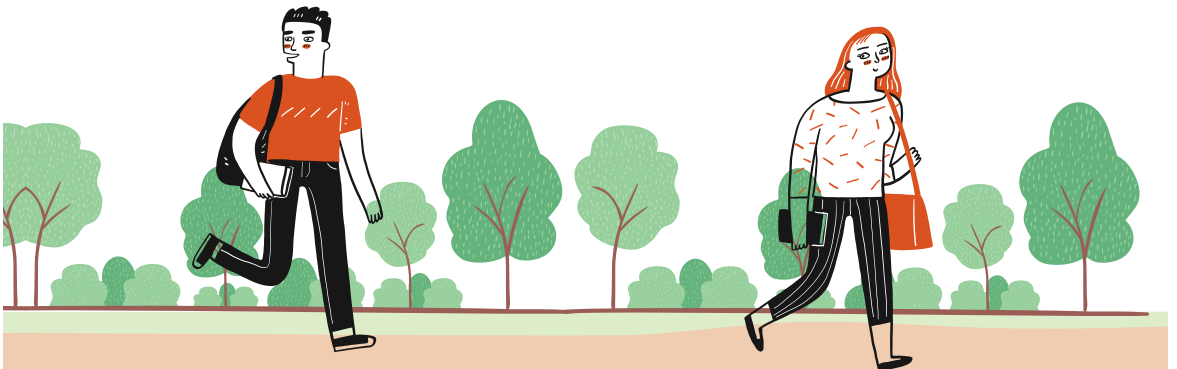


'The CYP is a wheelchair user, and would like to go on their own sometimes, they know the battery could last till school, but what happens if it breaks down – it's normally good' This would be dependent on the distance of the designated journey and the access to recharging the battery at the educational provision. If deemed necessary we could look into spare batteries to support this.



If the CYP cycles will they get help for getting safety equipment?

Yes, we will support them in ensuring that they have all the relevant safety equipment.



Contact Details:

independenttravel@swindon.gov.uk
or scan the QR code below for more information.

