



More help and support

For general queries on Travel Care for children and young people with additional needs please call the Travel Care Team on:

Phone: 0191 433 7484

Email: travelcare@gateshead.gov.uk

For a round-up of the information and support offered by Gateshead Council visit our 'Local Offer' pages on the council's website www.gateshead.gov.uk/localoffer

Independent Travel Training

Your child's journey starts here

Introduction

This booklet answers your questions about independent travel training and how the Travel Care Team at Gateshead Council can help your child becoming more independent and safe when travelling on public transport to school or college, and should provide valuable skills for the future when going to work or out with friends.

If you have any other questions about independent travel training not covered in this booklet, or you would like this information in a different format (such as large print, Braille, on CD/MP3) please contact:

The Travel Care Team on 0191 433 7484 or email travelcare@gateshead.gov.uk

Independent Travel Training is about giving your child the skills and confidence to travel safely using public transport. It's about expanding their knowledge of road safety and learning how to plan journeys.

This usually happens when your child reaches an age that they are ready to benefit from the opportunities provided by Independent Travel Training (usually around academic year 8 and 9).

But it's also about giving you the reassurance that your child is moving towards a more independent life, opening up opportunities and helping them prepare for adulthood.

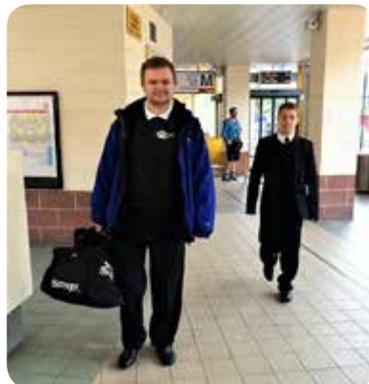
Who is the training aimed at?

Children and young people with additional needs, who receive support from the local authority to get to school.

Who provides this service?

Gateshead Council's Travel Care Team based at Gateshead Civic Centre undertake the training.

"Your service has made a huge difference to my son's life, developing his confidence, not only in travelling to school, but in his social life too."



What are the benefits for my child?

Travel training focuses on using public transport to school or college. However, it can help to build your child's confidence, social and independence skills, reducing their reliance on you. You may also be eligible for a free or discounted bus pass, your travel trainer will be happy to go through all the options.



How does it work?

Our travel trainers are experienced in the use of training in systematic Instruction (TSI). They'll make an appointment with you and your child to talk through the travel training experience. The trainer will link in with school, or college to develop the training to suit your child.

We'll arrange a regular appointment to travel with your child to and from school and teach them things like 'the green cross code', 'safe places', 'safe strangers' and how to solve problems when things go wrong.

How will we know when our child is ready to travel independently?

Your child will be closely observed and monitored throughout the travel training process and must reach a number of key targets.

We'll gradually reduce the 'one to one' support, but we will always be there to observe your child until we all feel they are ready to be 'signed off'.

"I used to think I would never be able to travel on my own, but because of Norma, my travel trainer, I can now go to Newcastle with my mate on my own."

What do I do next?

If you would like your child to be considered for travel training, a member of the Travel Care Team will contact your child's school or college. Once we have established your child's training needs and whether they are able to benefit from the training, our travel trainer will get in touch with you start the process.

