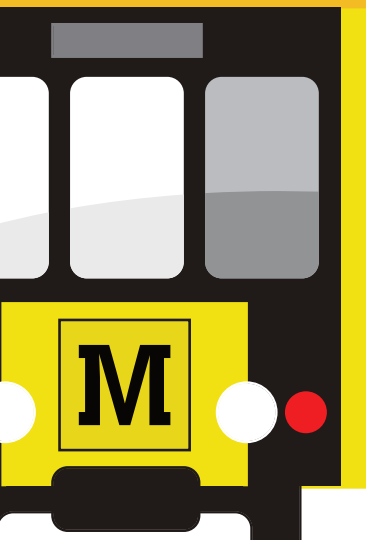




Independent travel programme for young people in education



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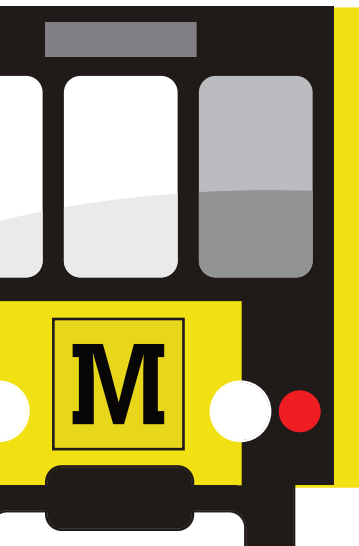
Independent travel training is about giving your child the skills and confidence to travel safely using public transport. It's about expanding their knowledge of road safety and learning how to plan journeys. The training usually happens when your child reaches an age that they are ready to benefit from the opportunities provided by the Independent Travel Programme. It can begin as early as Year 6.

Who is the training aimed at?

The training is aimed at children and young people with additional needs, who receive support from the local authority to get to school. Many pupils can learn to travel independently. Each pupil is assessed to see if they can benefit from training. The needs of a small number of pupils may be so great that they would not benefit from training.

What are the benefits of travel training?

Travel training focuses on using public transport to school. It can help to build your child's confidence, social and independence skills, which could reduce their reliance on you. You may also be eligible for a free or discounted bus pass. The travel trainer will be happy to advise you on this.



How does it work?

On receipt of a referral for travel training our trainer will contact you and your child to talk through the travel training experience. The trainer will link in with your child's school to develop the training to suit your child. A risk assessment will be carried out and a training plan will be agreed by all involved.

The learner will follow a plan of supervised and unsupervised travel and activities including using the bus and Metro, staying safe and using shops and services, handling money and being aware of others.

Once the learner has been fully trained, our trainer will regularly carry out observations and catch ups to ensure they are still travelling safely. If a student is transitioning to another school/college, we can provide further training on their new route.

The one-to-one service can be used during 'real time' journeys, during the day and during school holidays (where available). Students can learn new journeys, build confidence in travelling independently and using public transport.

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. The 'one to one' support will be gradually reduced until the journey can be made by your child on their own. There will always be someone there to observe your child until all involved have agreed that they are confident to travel alone.

What if my child was unable to successfully complete the training?

If your child is unable to complete the training and the trainer concludes that they will not be able to travel independently, you will receive an Assessment Report confirming this. A copy of this report can support any further applications you make for transport assistance.



Who provides this service?

The programme is commissioned through Beacon Hill School.

For further information contact:

The Travel Team

Telephone **0191 643 3059**

Mobile **07850 747 985**

Email independent.travel@beaconhill.org.uk

www.beaconhill.n-tyneside.sch.uk



Important Information for pupils transitioning on to further education

Applications for travel assistance for post 16/19 learners with additional needs may need to be supported with an assessment report from the travel programme. This report will confirm that the pupil has taken part in the programme and is unable to travel independently.

For further information on this please contact the Access Team on **0191 643 8726** or email us at hometoschooltransport@northtyneside.gov.uk