



# Travel Training

on the journey from home  
to school or college

*kent.gov.uk*



## What is Travel Training?

Travel Training develops an important skill for life, as it helps to give a young person the freedom to fulfil their potential. Travelling independently opens up social, educational and employment opportunities.

We offer a facility where young people are trained to travel safely from home to school/college and back again, therefore promoting independence at no cost.

The training will aim to provide the skills and knowledge that is needed to be able to complete journeys safely, confidently and successfully.

## What are the criteria for Travel Training?

The programme is open to young people who meet the eligibility criteria for travel assistance to school/college. For further information please follow the link **[kent.gov.uk/independenttraveltraining](https://kent.gov.uk/independenttraveltraining)** and **[kent.gov.uk/post16transport](https://kent.gov.uk/post16transport)**

## Who can apply for Travel Training?

- Parents/carers
- Schools
- Colleges
- SEN Officers
- Social Workers
- The young person (with parent's knowledge)

## The training includes

- Teaching safe practice, personal safety and travel safety.
- The agreed route will be specific and tailored to meet the individual's needs.
- Support the young person to develop their skills and confidence.
- Training is delivered on a 1:1 basis.
- Travel Trainer will feed back on a regular basis.

## What skills can be learnt during Travel Training?

Travel Training covers various topics depending on the needs of the young person. Areas covered are:

- Personal safety
- Travel safety
- Travel skills
- Problem solving e.g. 'what if' situations
- Planning a journey e.g. identifying appropriate route, landmarks, timetable
- Communication e.g. understanding instructions, asking others for help

## How long will the Travel Training take?

Travel Training will take as long as is needed to train the young person so that they are safe, confident and ready to travel by themselves on the specific journey.

It can start slowly, building up skills and knowledge and working at a pace that meets the needs of the young person.

They will not be 'signed off' to travel by themselves until they have been assessed by another travel trainer to check that they are confident and competent on the journey.

## What are the benefits of Travel Training?

Travel Training can help a young person in many ways:

- They will gain more confidence. Examples of feedback we have received are the young person has grown in confidence, they have grown in maturity and they are now using their skills to meet their friends or family at the cinema or in town.
- They will arrive at school or college on their own which helps with self-esteem. They can also travel with their friends.
- They will have more opportunities to develop important social skills and learn how to cope in a variety of situations.
- Learning basic travel skills on a familiar route is an excellent foundation from which to learn to travel to new places and meet new friends in the future.
- They will be less dependent on family and friends and gain more independence.

- Travel Training is an essential life skill and a core part of a young person's education.

For many young people this is the beginning of a wider journey and opens up new experiences and opportunities e.g. attending after school clubs, meeting up socially with friends, gaining future employment.

Post 16 Transport is not automatically provided. Assisted transport is only provided during normal college hours e.g. arrive for first scheduled lesson and collected at end of last scheduled lesson, so the young person could be waiting for a while for their transport. If they are travel trained they can travel at times to meet their timetable.

## Can parents get involved in the training?

It is important that parents are involved from the start.

When the Travel Training team receive an application a travel trainer will arrange to meet with the young person and family (and any other key people if required) to discuss the programme, journey and complete a travel assessment.

The trainer will ask parents for as much relevant information about the young person. It can help give an idea of the young person's previous experience or particular training requirements.

During the training further input from the parents is encouraged. Regular feedback will be given. Where they are able to, parents are encouraged to further develop and practise the travel skills the young person is learning by encouraging their road safety skills, making use of bus/train travel.

### **Do travel trainers work with other agencies and professionals that are involved with the young person?**

Permission is always sought from parents or carers before any information about the young person is requested.

### **What happens once Travel Training has been completed?**

The young person will not be 'signed off' to begin travelling by themselves on the agreed journey until the Travel Trainer is confident that they are ready to do so and a final assessment has been carried out.

The young person is issued with a bus or train pass (depending upon the journey Travel Training has been provided on) for that academic year. The Travel Training team can still be contacted following 'sign off' if any issues arise.

The school/college will also play a part in ensuring the young person is arriving on time and is in a good state to learn.

### **Who can I contact to discuss the Travel Training programme?**

If you require further information email the Travel Training Team at: ***ITT@kent.gov.uk***

### **How can we apply?**

If the young person is eligible for transport assistance complete the online application at ***kent.gov.uk/independenttraveltraining***

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