

Planning for my future: Supporting pupils with ALN to develop independent travel skills



Quick Guide for Secondary Education Settings

There is **no legal obligation** on the Education Department to provide free transport for post 16 learners, whether they attend school or college placements.

Developing travel skills is a crucial part of planning for a young person's development and independence in adult life, and during transition reviews for pupils with ALN, discussions about developing these skills will be extremely important. In considering further education placements, it will be equally as important to consider the route and how the young person will be able to get there.

What is travel training?

Travel training aims to help those who need extra support to make journeys safely on their own. It tends to be delivered on a one to one or group basis, in order to meet the needs and abilities of each trainee.

Travel training can include a wide range of support by:

- Providing short term training to familiarise people with how public transport works in their area and giving them the confidence to use it; or
- Providing longer term, regular, intensive one-to-one training to also learn important road safety and personal awareness skills.

Who is it aimed at helping?

Travel training is particularly beneficial for pupils with ALN, many of whom are often transported by taxi until they leave school. Access to further education, work placements, training and other life opportunities can then become very daunting because they have no prior experience in preparing and planning journeys independently. Many will be unfamiliar with where to find the information or advice or even the skills to make journeys themselves.

Where do I find out more information?

For more information on travel training contact:

Rhiannon Williams via e-mail: RWilliams@ValeofGlamorgan.gov.uk

Concessionary bus passes

Many young people with ALN are entitled to a concessionary bus pass which means that they are eligible to travel on all buses throughout Wales at no cost.

To find out more information and how to apply online, go to the Transport for Wales website at <https://tfw.wales/travelcards>. Families can also get help to apply from one of our Advice Hubs.

If you have a concessionary bus pass, you'll also [get 1/3 off train tickets](#) to travel on the Cardiff and Valley network after 0930 Monday - Friday and any time at weekends and bank holidays.

Mobility Allowance

Some young people with ALN may be receiving Personal Independence Payments (PIP). Part of this payment includes a mobility allowance which helps towards covering the cost of transport if the young person has mobility issues.

See the articles below for more information

[Personal Independence Payment \(PIP\): What PIP is for - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[PIP mobility component in 2022: everything you need to know \(your-benefits.co.uk\)](#)

The Orange Wallet Scheme

The Orange Wallet Scheme is a project funded by the Welsh Government as part of the All Wales ASD strategy. It's for anyone who may find it difficult to communicate their needs when travelling on public transport, and can support communication with staff when travelling by bus or train. It's particularly designed for passengers with an Autism Spectrum Disorder. However, it can be used by anyone with a hidden disability who may like to communicate to staff non-verbally.

How it works

The wallet has plastic pockets where you can put words and pictures to help communicate your needs to transport staff across Wales. Show it to the station and on board staff when you're travelling or buying a ticket. They're trained to recognise the wallet and provide appropriate help.

For more information, go to <https://tfw.wales/info-for/passengers/accessible-travel/initiatives/orange-wallet-scheme>

An orange wallet can be picked up from libraries across The Vale of Glamorgan.

Financial support for young people who do not qualify for a free bus pass.

Most colleges provide financial travel assistance subject to criteria. You can find out more on their websites. For Cardiff and Vale College go to <https://cavc.ac.uk/en/finance>

All young people aged 16- 21 can apply for a discounted bus pass for travel throughout Wales. Application are made online at <https://mytravelpass.gov.wales/en/>

Great Western Railway (GWR) Travel Training

GWR have an accessibility programme where they can offer tailored support for young people with ALN to access trains as well as providing travel training and practical support. Below is an outline of what they can offer schools:

- Deliver in class sessions on travelling by train
- Deliver travel training sessions at a train station
- Deliver try a train session
- Enhancing skills and upskilling teams to become self-sufficient in delivering travel training.

For more information on GWR travel training contact: Dan.Pearce@gwr.com or Coral.Thomas@gwr.com