



TRANSPORT SUPPORT

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for compulsory school aged (5-16 years old) children with SEND

TRANSPORT SUPPORT FAQS FOR COMPULSORY AGE CHILDREN WITH SEND

■ Transport Law and Guidance

Section 509(1) of the Education Act 1996 requires a Local Authority (LA) to decide whether it needs to make arrangements for provision of travel assistance for pupils with SEN/Mobility or Disability.

If a LA decides that this is necessary, then it **must** decide what form of travel assistance is suitable and organise it free of charge.

If a child has Special Educational Needs (SEN), a disability or mobility problems where they cannot reasonably be expected to walk to school, then they are an 'eligible child' and are entitled to home to school transport, provided that the LA has made no suitable arrangements for attendance at a nearer school or boarding accommodation.

■ What are the criteria for Transport support, for children who are compulsory school age (5-16 years old)?

If your child falls into one of these categories than they may be able to get transport support/help for the LA:

- 1) Distance - live beyond the statutory walking distance (2 miles for those under 8 and 3 miles for those over 8) or
- 2) If your child lives within statutory walking distance, they will still be eligible to transport support if,
 - They are from a low -income family or
 - Safety –their route to school is unsafe or
 - They have Special Educational Needs (SEN/Disability or mobility difficulty) - which means they could not be reasonably expected to walk to school

For further information about eligibility, please click on the [IPSEA website](#) link.

■ My child does not have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan but my child has SEND and we live within 2.5 miles walking distance from School. Does that mean my child is not eligible?

If your child has SEN/Disability/Mobility issues, and if they cannot be expected to reasonably walk to school. Then they are an eligible child, and they may be eligible to travel assistance.

■ My child has an EHC Plan. Does this mean they are automatically entitled to transport?

No. Only if your child falls into one of the categories of eligible children (**see criteria for transport support for children of compulsory school age, aged 5-16**) then they will be entitled to transport.

If your child lives within statutory walking distance but can reasonably be expected to walk to school on their own and does not fit within one of the other categories, they will not be entitled to free home-school transport. This is because the nature of their SEND does not impact on them being reasonably expected to walk.

■ I think my child is eligible. How would I apply for travel assistance?

You can complete an online application form for Home to School Travel Assistance and send it to the SEND Transport Team in Wandsworth (if you live in Wandsworth).

The form can be completed and submitted online (If you cannot complete the form online, please contact the SEND Travel Assistance team). Their contact details can be found in the link below.

Please click on the link for the form: [Wandsworth School Travel Assistance for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\)](#)



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■ What are the possible ways that the LA may offer travel assistance to my child?

- **Travel Assistance Budget:** Provide you with a set amount of money to help pay for your car mileage or for you to book taxi's for your child.
- Taxi service arranged by the LA
- School bus
- Travel Escort (buddy) – who escorts your child to school
- Travel training - someone who will provide training to your child to travel to school and back home on their own.

■ How does the LA make sure that my child travels to school and back home safely and comfortably?

The travel arrangements **must** enable your child to reach school without such stress, strain, or difficulty that they would be prevented from benefitting from the education provided. It **must** allow your child to travel in reasonable safety and in reasonable comfort.

Ideally, your child **should not be** expected to make several changes on public transport. Best practice suggests that a child of primary school age should not travel for longer than 45 minutes and a child of secondary school age **should not** travel for more than 75 minutes.

LAs should also consider the walking distance to access public transport.

Once travel assistance has been approved, the LA **should** consider the following:

- Ensure drivers and escorts are known to you

- Operators contact numbers are provided to you
- Ensure stability of staffing arrangements for children who dislike change
- Encourage schools and transport services to use a home-school liaison diary
- Ensure that journey times are reasonable to avoid undue stress.
- Enhanced DBS checks for all drivers and escorts
- Minimum standards of training for drivers and escorts, including training in conflict resolution, safe handling and working with children with medical conditions and/or disabilities, where appropriate
- Assessment and management of risk
- Specific measures for children with health needs
- Specific training for staff and vehicle adaptations for children with mobility needs.

■ How do I appeal a transport support decision I do not agree with?

The LA have in place both complaints and appeals procedures for parents to follow should they have cause for complaint about the service or wish to appeal about the eligibility of their child for travel assistance. Please follow the link below if you want to appeal the transport decision you have received, then click on Stage 1 Appeal or Stage 2 Appeal.

For further information, please see the links below and/or contact us:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/home-to-school-travel-and-transport-guidance>

www.ipsea.org.uk/News/home-to-school-transport-understanding-your-rights

■ How to contact us:

Helpline number: **020 8871 8065** (24 hour answer machine)

Email: wiaass@wandsworth.gov.uk

Web: wiaass.org.uk