

Independent Travel Training and Personal Travel Budgets

Information for
schools and
colleges



Cumberland Council have agreed some new approaches to how we support children and young people travel to school and college

Independent Travel Training (ITT)

This programme can help young people learn how to travel safely between home and school or college on their own. If they are eligible, they will get:

- One-on-one training designed just for them
- A detailed training plan with a qualified instructor
- Clear goals that they will be helped to achieve

Before they start, parents will need to give their permission. Once young people have completed the training successfully, their travel arrangements will be updated to reflect their new independence.

Personal Travel Budgets (PTB)

A PTB is money given to some families to help get children to school who require individual or specialist transport. It gives families more choices about how children travel. Families could use this money to drive children to school, buy a bus pass or share rides with other families.

The amount of money depends on how far a child lives from school. The Council pays £0.45 for each mile of the journey to and from school, plus an extra daily amount between £5 and £45 if a family needs it. Additional money may be available if a child:

- has medical needs that require quick attention
- needs extra support to travel safely
- needs an adult to travel with them
- lives in a rural area or has a long journey



Independent Travel Training



Independent Travel Training (ITT) aims to improve and enhance life skills and independence for young people within the Cumberland Council area.



Why Independent Travel Training?

Young people who complete ITT will gain independence skills, experience and wider confidence with travel - this will support not only their education but will open up a variety of social activities and support their development and growth.

Who qualifies?

Any young person with an EHCP who is eligible for travel support under our policy. This can be found via our website: [Apply for school transport | Cumberland Council](#)

Benefits to settings?

Through the training, we aim to free up resource within the setting by supporting the individual growth of each young person. This will give them more freedom to develop their skills and responsibilities within their setting, and supporting the development of independence for the young person.

ITT helps develop a range of practical skills in a hands-on way - travelling independently helps improve opportunities for education, employment and social activities

Benefits to young people

CONFIDENCE

An increase in confidence, not only around travel but with interaction with others

LIFESTYLE BENEFITS

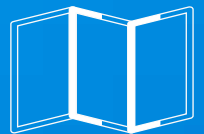
New opportunities, whether they are leisure based or otherwise and promoting healthier lifestyles

INCREASING WIDER OPPORTUNITIES

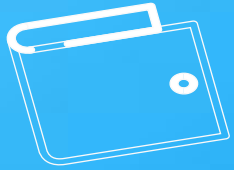
Promoting access to employment, further education

INCREASING INDEPENDENCE

The ability to travel alone and to other destinations, safely exploring the local area



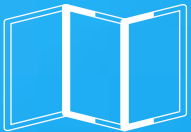
Skills development



Counting and understanding money value



Telling and understanding the concept of time



How to read a bus timetable

Stranger awareness / online activities



Road safety and keeping safe/online games and activities



Support will be tailored to individual needs following assessments and could include an element of 1:1 support for a time limited period

As part of the ongoing training, we will review each young person's circumstances on an individual basis, looking at the ways in which we can best support each young person to successfully engage in and complete the course - and to gain the skills and confidence they need to travel independently.

Relevant training to assist with the journey will include the trainer shadowing from a safe distance, managing risk and post training support.



Initial assessment by the ITT team to identify if the potential trainee has the right skills and abilities before they can begin an ITT programme

- **Dangers/hazards**
- **Responding to verbal instructions and directions**
- **Making decisions and acting upon them**
- **Communicating their needs**
- **Seeking/accepting help from appropriate source**
- **Negotiating kerbs, steps, lifts, buses and trains**
- **Understanding of the need for socially acceptable behaviour**
- **Sense of personal safety and security of belongings**
- **Ways of identifying basic numbers**
- **Ways of identifying basic colours**
- **Identifying different money values**
- **Capacity to be motivated**

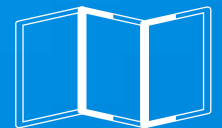


Key elements of the ITT programme

ITT is a step-by-step process by which a young person learns to travel a specific route between home and school or college, on their own and in a safe and responsible way.

Each trainee is assessed to highlight their particular needs and a bespoke training package is created. This may take the form of some theory-based training (such as telling the time, reading bus or train timetables, counting money, stranger awareness or hazards and dangers) as well as the practical element of travel.

Referrals can be made by the family, schools or as part of the SEND travel application and review processes.



Elements of the ITT programme

Initial Assessment:

- Gathering information from the pupil, the person referring the trainee and the parents
- Practical assessment of skills and understanding

5. Independent Traveller

- Regular reviews

4. Trainee Assessment

- Can this young person travel this route independently?

1. Agreement:

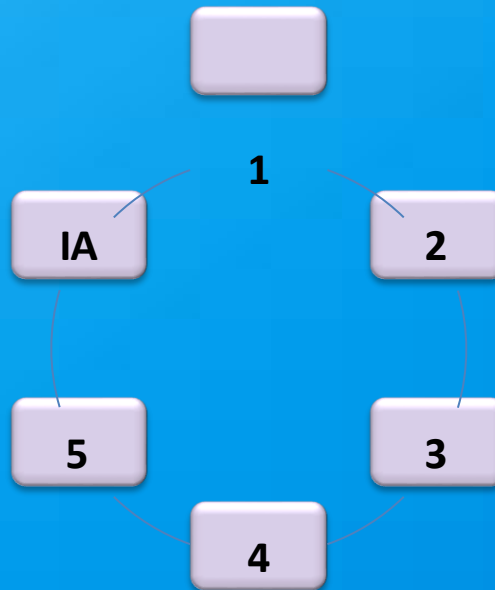
- Parental agreement
- ITT programme content agreed

2. Journey Planning

- Route planning
- Key learning: timetables, fares, planning, 'what to do if' scenario planning

3. Risk Assessment

- Identifying possible hazards and solutions
- Managing and balancing risk
- Personal safety





Where and how the training takes place

This begins with an initial home visit to meet the young person and their parent/carers. This is where discussions will begin around the training and the options that may or may not be taken.

Training is completed on an agreed pre-planned route and done following the most appropriate travel options. The training will be completed through a series of 1-1 training sessions, leading to observations. The young person will be observed and assessed to ensure confidence in their ability to travel independently.



If you would like to find out more:

**Cumberland Council Home to School Travel Team:
Email: ITT@cumberland.gov.uk**

Web link:

Apply for school transport | Cumberland Council

