Independent Travel Training
What is Independent Travel Training?

Independent 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 from school/college to home, therefore promoting independence.

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 Independent Travel Training?

The programme is open to young people who meet the eligibility criteria for assisted travel to school/college. For further information please follow the link www.kent.gov.uk/independenttraveltraining

Who can apply for Independent Travel Training?

- Parents/carers
- Schools (mainstream/special or with specialist units)
- Colleges
- SEN/LDA Officers.

The Training includes

- Practical skills needed to travel independently
- Teaching safe practice, personal safety and travel safety.
- The agreed route will be specific and tailored to meet the individual’s needs
- Support young people to develop their skills and confidence
- Training is delivered on a 1:1 basis and is tailored to the young person’s needs.
- Each young person will be given a Training Folder which will include a personalised Journey Plan; timetable, important information, prompts and photographs.
- Progress reports will be issued and copies will be sent to parents and/or schools/colleges.

What skills can be learnt during Independent Travel Training?

Independent 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 begin travelling independently.

It can start slowly, building up skills and knowledge and going at a pace that suits the young person.

They will not be ‘signed off’ to begin travelling independently to school/college until the Travel Trainer agrees that they are ready to do so.

What are the Benefits of Travel Training?

Travel training can help a young person in many ways:

• They will gain more confidence because they arrive at school or college on their own.
• 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 friends and family and have greater freedom.
• 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.

Once Travel Training has been completed who will pay for the young person’s bus pass?

Kent County Council will provide the bus pass for travel to school/college and the return journey whilst they remain eligible for travel support.

Can parents get involved in the training?

It is an important part of the Independent Travel Training preparation process to involve the parents right from the start.

Before training commences the trainer will meet with the parents and young person (and any other key people) to discuss the programme and complete the paperwork assessment.

The trainer will ask parents for as much relevant information about the
young person as possible. 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
reports will be given to them. Where
they are able to, parents are encouraged
to further develop and practice the
independent travel skills the young
people are learning by making regular
use of bus/train travel.

Do travel trainers work with
other agencies and professionals
that are involved with the
young person?
Yes. Relevant professionals (e.g. school/
college, social worker, CAHMS) who
know the young person and any others
involved. Often this is vital, for example,
if there is a medical condition or
additional support needs to
be considered.

However 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 independently
on the agreed journey until the Travel
Trainer is confident that they are ready
to do so and a final assessment will be
carried out.

The Independent Travel Training team
will make contact a month after the
signing off to follow up on the young
person's continuing success.

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

Who can I contact to discuss the
Independent Travel
Training programme?

If you require further information
contact the Independent Travel Training
Team via email: ITT@kent.gov.uk or
phone: 03000 41 21 21

How can we apply?

If the young person is eligible for
assisted transport complete the Travel
Training Form on the following link
www.kent.gov.uk/independenttravel
training

And email the form to ITT@kent.gov.uk
or return to:

Independent Travel Training Team.
Room 2.24, Sessions House,
County Hall, Maidstone,
Kent ME14 1XQ