

Children's Travel Policy Summary

This is a headline summary of Tower Hamlets Council's Children's Travel Policy. The full version of the policy can be found at www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/travelpolicy

INTRODUCTION

The aim of the policy is to ensure that appropriate travel assistance is provided to those who are eligible. The policy covers both children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and admissions related travel arrangements.

In summary, the policy sets out:

- Who is eligible for travel assistance
- How parents and carers may apply for assistance
- The menu of travel assistance options available for those meeting the eligibility criteria
- Our approach to selecting travel arrangements in different circumstances
- How parents and carers can appeal against decisions they are unhappy with

Our travel assistance policy promotes independence whilst ensuring that Council resources are used effectively and efficiently, and focused on the needs of the pupil.

The policy has a range of different ways in which help with travelling to school can be provided. It sets out how the Council will decide which type of help to offer. This may include help for parents and children to use the public transport system independently.

This policy will help to ensure fairness across travel assistance provision and enable staff to deliver a more consistent level of service. It will also continue the shift to a more flexible range of travel assistance options.

AIMS

The aims of the travel assistance policy are to:

- Promote a higher degree of personal freedom, confidence and independence of children by being able to travel independently (as appropriate).
- Provide a more bespoke and flexible service primarily based on individual needs using a menu approach to travel assistance.
- Promote parental responsibility.
- Make more effective use of the Council's limited resources.

- Continue to provide appropriate transport to vulnerable pupils who meet our eligibility criteria.

HOW TO APPLY

The application form is designed for you to give as much information as possible for a decision to be made regarding the travel assistance your child may be eligible for.

As long as all relevant information is provided, a decision will be made within the timeframe on the attached chart. If you do not agree with the decision, you have the right to appeal and you should refer to the policy for further information on how to do this.

MENU OF OPTIONS

If your child is eligible for travel assistance, support may be provided in one of the following ways:

- ***Freedom pass***: To enable the child to travel to school accompanied as necessary using any public transport service.
- ***Travel pass***: To enable the child to travel to school accompanied, if necessary, by an adult via public transport solutions.
- ***Independent travel training***: Provided by the Council, independent travel training focuses on the needs and capabilities of a pupil and can increase their independence by developing their personal, social and life skills.
- ***Parental reimbursement***: Parents and carers may receive reimbursement for using their own vehicle to transport their eligible child to and from school.
- ***Direct payments***: It may be possible for the Council to provide parents and carers with direct payments where they agree to arrange transport for their children themselves.
- ***Transport vehicles***: In exceptional circumstances the Council may provide a vehicle to transport a child to and from school.
- ***Taxis and private hire vehicles***: Under exceptional circumstances the Council may transport pupils in separate taxis or private hire vehicles based on the assessed needs of the child.
- ***1:1 specialist care***: This will be determined by a risk assessment undertaken by the Community Children's Nursing Team (CCNT). Should they determine that the child's needs cannot be met by a passenger assistant, the parent/carer, who will have knowledge and experience of providing the specialist care required, will need to travel with the child.