



## 3. Practising inclusive education

### 3.7 Transport

## Introduction

Transport can make or break students' participation in different activities. It can open up a wider range of activities and events that provide a truly welcoming and equal experience for all children and young people. On the other hand, a lack of accessible or flexible transport options can limit and exclude students from taking full part in social and educational activities. As such, accessible transport is at the heart of inclusion.

Good provision of transport can be challenging to provide but very important for children and young people's feelings of participation. For many children and young people, transport options are inaccessible, inflexible and prevent them from taking part in after-school or out-of-school experiences.

When schools aren't able to provide suitable transport, it often falls to the parents or family members to support children and young people to participate in school-related activities.

## Home to school transport for children with special educational needs: good practice guidance

Department for Education and Skills, 2001

- 1 Authorities should adopt a consistent and clear definition of special education transport.
- 2 Authorities should have a clear statement of policy on special education transport.
- 3 Special education transport entitlement should be based on the child's individual needs. If a child's needs are such that transport is not necessary then the mainstream distance policy should apply.
- 4 Authorities should provide parents, schools and contractors with good quality information.
- 5 An assessment of children's transport requirements should be made and a record of these kept.
- 6 Authorities should undertake a review of a child's entitlement and transport needs on a regular basis.
- 7 Authorities should adopt a flexible approach to planning, procurement and tendering – balancing the benefits of regular reviews against the benefits of longer contracts.
- 8 All provision should follow existing good practice on transporting children in wheelchairs/special seats.
- 9 Escorts play an important role, and it is therefore important that escorts receive appropriate training and are provided with adequate background information about the nature of their duties. In common with taxi/private hire drivers, escorts should be subject to a criminal record check.
- 10 Monitoring of services is essential to ensure quality of service.



**[For many disabled students], access to appropriate transport is not ideal at the moment. Children are dependent on their parents' commitment to collect them if they wish to stay longer at school. If children are picked up by their parents, then they can stay on an hour. But if not, then they don't have an option.**

George Timotheou, Sports Development Manager, Aspire

## Independent travel training

Schools can also support children or young people to become more independent travellers. This may be especially relevant for young people who would prefer to travel home with their friends instead of in an adapted taxi on their own. Many councils provide independent travel training programmes, so look at the local authority web site to see if it is available in your area.

Further information on supporting independent travel can be found here:

- [Department of Education](#) information on travel training
- [National Star College](#) resources information on independent travel training
- List of general resources related to [transport for disabled people](#)

“ London transport is a big pain but Back Up has given Ben the confidence to travel and use transport. There are quite a lot of barriers that can be overcome if you have the right training from the right trainers. The Back Up course Ben went on gave him the confidence to use escalators in his chair. That course had an impact on his every life, having the independence and confidence really does change lives.

Janet, mum of son 17

**We are looking for examples of best inclusive practice in regards to transport – please get in touch with us via the form on the toolkit homepage to share best practice examples.**