

**Liverpool and Knowsley SENDIASS**

**Home to School or College Transport**

The Local Authority (LA) has a duty to make necessary travel arrangements for eligible children of compulsory school age, aged 5 to 16 ( the start of term following a child’s fifth birthday to the last Friday in June in the academic year in which he/she turns 16.)

**Eligible children**

There are four categories of eligible children:

* children who attend their nearest qualifying school which is outside the statutory walking distance.
* children with SEN, disabilities or mobility problems within the statutory walking distance. Children will be assessed taking into account distance, age, mobility and the effect of their complex needs on their ability to travel.
* children whose route to school is unsafe within the statutory walking distance. This includes routes where things like rivers, ditches and the speed of traffic on roads, street lighting and condition of route at different times of year
* children within the walking distance from low income families. If your child is entitled to free school meals or you are in receipt of the maximum level of Working Tax Credit

**Walking distances**

Statutory walking distance is classes as 2 miles for children under 8 years of age and 3 miles for children over the age of 8.

The distance is not necessarily measured by road only; it could be the shortest route which a child, accompanied as necessary, may walk with reasonable safety. It may include footpaths, bridleways as well as recognised roads.

**If your child is unable to walk to school by reason of their SEN, disability or mobility problems.**

Individual transport needs will be assessed against a set of criteria taking into account distance, their age, mobility and the effect of their complex needs on their ability to travel.

**Children aged 8-10 years**

Must be attending their nearest qualifying where the distance between home and school is more than 2 miles but less than 6 miles.

**Children between 11-16 years**

May have free school transport to any 1 of their 3 nearest appropriate qualifying schools where the distance between home and school is more than 2 miles, but no more than 6 miles or to the nearest appropriate denominational school on the grounds of religion or belief, where the distance between home and school is more than 2 miles but no more than 15 miles.

Whilst it is your responsibility as a parent/carer to ensure your child attends school regularly, the LA should consider whether it is reasonably practicable for you to accompany the child along the route which would otherwise be considered too dangerous to walk in reasonable safety.

**What if I’m a disabled parent?**

LAs would need to consider if your disability prevents you from accompanying your child along a safe route to school. The LA would need to consider what reasonable adjustments could be made, which may include providing free home to school transport.

**What is considered to be the nearest qualifying school?**

The school will have places available and provide education appropriate to the age, ability and aptitude of your child and any special needs your child may have.

The nearest qualifying school may be different for a child with SEN than for other children.

**Suitability of travel arrangements**

Travel arrangements which could be made by the LA include:

* provision of an escort, in a taxi, walking or by bus.
* payment of allowances
* travel training
* travel passes
* personal budget
* cost of equipment.

**Post 16 Transport**

Local authorities have a duty under the Education and Skills Act 2008 to encourage, enable and assist young people with learning disabilities to participate in education and training up to the age of 25.

All post 16 learners with learning difficulties and or disabilities who require assistance with travel will be individually assessed to determine their suitability for travel training. If appropriate, these young people will receive the training to allow them to travel independently on public transport and allocated an appropriate pass.

Learners over the age of 16 may be eligible for support up to the age of 25 years, or if the 25th birthday occurs whilst on the course up to the age of 26 years, usually for a maximum of three years.

**Personal budgets**

If a learner qualifies for transport assistance the parent/carer may opt to receive a personal budget to enable them to arrange their own transport to and from school or sixth form/college. Payments will be made each term and are based on the student’s attendance.

Personal budgets are currently paid at a rate of £7.90 per day. The amount paid will be calculated on the number of days a learner attends their college or school. Learners will need to provide evidence of their attendance at school or college. All payments are paid in arrears, usually at the end of each term.

To be eligible for this assistance the learner must be:

* aged 16-19 with a Statement of Special Needs or an Education Health and Care Plan and attending a college or a special school in year 12, 13, 14, or
* aged 19-24 with an Education Health and Care Plan, having enrolled on the course after their 19th birthday, or
* aged 19-24 with an Education Health and Care Plan, where the Authority, because of the needs of the student, has deemed it necessary they enrol on a course after their 19th birthday and
* attend their nearest college or school sixth form providing facilities and a study programme suitable to their needs, and

 that school or college is beyond 3 miles from their home

**Pre-payment for dedicated transport (for students 16-18)**

Independent travellers can access the concessionary fare scheme and buy a School Plus Metrocard. Those eligible learners 16-18 can choose transport by paying a fee. The fee is set in line with the cost of a School Plus Ticket.

**Vulnerable student bursary**

A student could get up to £1,200 if they are disabled and get Income Support, ESA OR Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment. It is necessary to contact the school or college directly to check if a young person is eligible.

**Travel training**

The council currently have an Independent Travel Training Programme which works to promote and implement independent travel.

IPSEA also have some useful information; [Transport to school or college | (IPSEA) Independent Provider of Special Education Advice](https://www.ipsea.org.uk/pages/category/transport-to-school-or-college)

**For further information and advice, contact Barnardo’s SENDIASS**

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Or visit our website for more useful information:

[**https://www.barnardos.org.uk/liverpool-and-knowsley-sendiass/**](https://www.barnardos.org.uk/liverpool-and-knowsley-sendiass/)