

Eligibility for SEN, disability, or mobility problems

Current policy:

In the current policy we state that we will assess individual eligibility and make transport arrangements for children who can't be expected to walk to school, (either due to their mobility problems or health and safety issues that relate to their SEN or disability) and whose parents are unable to transport them to school.

Proposed SEND Home to School Travel Policy:

- . We will assess each child on an individual basis to identify the most appropriate travel option
- . We will provide more clarity and information regarding circumstances where a child may be eligible:
 - attending nearest school
 - cannot walk even when accompanied
 - medical condition affects travel
- . We will provide more information and clarification regarding medical professional evidence which will be considered

Personal Travel Budgets (PTB)

Current policy:

PTBs are only referenced in relation to the promotion or presentation of alternate travel options, or as an option for lone travellers.

Proposed SEND Home to School Travel Policy:

We will provide clear information about PTBs, including information on how they could benefit service users. We'll also include specific examples of how much you could get based on the number of miles you travel.

We will outline how PTBs can be used, including:

- . shared travel arrangements with other parents or carers
- . helping overcome barriers that may prevent parents or carers from accompanying their children to school
- . covering the cost of parents or carers driving or cycling with their child to school
- . paying for a Guide Escort for the child to walk to school or travel by public transport

Independent Travel Training

Current policy:

There is currently no specific information provided on Independent Travel Training.

Proposed SEND Home to School Travel Policy:

We will include information to highlight the benefits of Independent Travel Training.

Applying for SEND HTST

Current policy:

There is currently no specific information provided on how to apply for SEND Home to School Travel assistance.

Proposed SEND Home to School Travel Policy:

We will include clear instructions including anticipated timescales and deadlines. This will break the application process down, making it easier for people to understand and apply for.

Explanation of terms

Current policy:

We currently use the following terms without clear definitions:

- . Home address
- . Guide Escorts
- . Exceptional circumstances
- . Nearest school

Proposed SEND Home to School Travel Policy:

We will clarify the terms we use within the policy to make it easier for everyone to understand.

For example:

- . **Home address:** where the child resides and spends the majority of their time, it is also the address registered with their GP surgery.
- . **Guide Escorts:** A Guide Escort may be allocated in exceptional circumstances through an SEN or medical assessment, tailored to the student's travel needs.

- . **Exceptional circumstances:** Exceptional circumstances will be recognised for the most vulnerable children when there is a strong need for help but the required transportation criteria are not met.
- . **Nearest school:** When parents or carers apply to the nearest suitable school and the school is unable to offer a place, we may be able to offer travel support for the next nearest school with a place, providing the child meets the eligibility criteria.

Review of eligibility

Current policy:

Reviews of eligibility are currently only referenced in the 'Guiding principles for SEND travel provision'. We regularly assess transport throughout a child's school life to ensure the right level of travel provision is in place.

Proposed SEND Home to School Travel Policy:

We will provide more clarity and information on how the eligibility review process works and detail the milestones that typically trigger the reviews. Going forward, we may also consider amending the named school on an EHCP if there is a closer, more suitable school that would make more efficient use of our resources regarding school travel support. (Please note that this links to the changes made to mentions of parental preference in the policy, detailed below.)

We will maintain the right to amend the terms of the travel support.

Behaviour on school transport

Current policy:

Information on behaviour on school transport is currently not included in the policy. Instead, we provide information separately by referencing it in our offer letters.

Proposed SEND Home to School Travel Policy:

We will provide clarity on expected behaviour (in line with the Behaviour Policy) within the new SEND Travel Policy. We will still reference expected behaviour on school transport in our offer letters.

Exclusions

Exclusions refer to situations where we do not provide travel support.

Current policy:

Exclusions are referenced throughout the policy, but are not laid out clearly in their own section.

Proposed SEND Home to School Travel Policy:

We have created a standalone section of the new policy to clearly explain and define the different exclusions.

Parental preference

Current policy:

There is no guidance on parental preference in the current policy.

Proposed SEND Home to School Travel Policy:

The proposed policy clearly states that if a parent or carer has requested a school to be named in the EHCP but there is an available place at a nearer, suitable school, the parent or carer will be responsible for transporting their child to and from school.

Car seats

Current policy:

There is no guidance on car seats in the current policy.

Proposed SEND Home to School Travel Policy:

The proposed policy provides guidance for parents and carers on what they are responsible for providing until a child reaches a height of at least 135cm (4'5") or turns 12 years old, whichever happens first.