



Special Educational Needs Disabilities and Inclusion Service
Children Services: Education
Swindon Borough Council
Wat Tyler West
Beckhampton Street
Swindon
SN1 2JG

Via Email

Telephone: 01793 464641
Email: SENAT@swindon.gov.uk

Date: 08 June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Travel Assistance 2020/ 21

If your child or young person is moving to a new education setting in September 2020 and you wish to apply for home to school travel assistance, this will now be done through an online application form.

If you are unable to complete the form online for any reason, please contact your named EHCP Coordinator or the SEN Travel Advisor who will be able to provide advice. The Team can be contacted by telephone on 07824 868353 or 07971 715864 or email SENAT@swindon.gov.uk.

The Education Transport Policy and online application form can be found on the Swindon Borough Council website Special Educational Needs Travel Assistance pages at the following link:

- https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20070/special_educational_needs/419/apply_for_special_educational_needs_transport

Or on the Swindon Local Offer website at the following link:

- <https://localoffer.swindon.gov.uk/content/send-local-offer/landing-pages/travel-landing-and-content-pages/travel-assistance/>



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David Haley
Director, Children's Services

Where criteria is met under the Education Transport Policy, travel assistance is provided in a range of ways, including, but not limited to:

- A Personal Travel Budget (PTB) to enable travel arrangements for the student;
- Provision of a pass for a public service bus or other means of public transport;
- Provision of a seat on a bus or minibus provided by the local authority;
- Provision of a seat in a taxi where more individualised arrangements are necessary;

Once the eligibility for travel assistance is established, the Council will consider on case by case basis the right type of travel assistance. Travel assistance will be appropriate to the individual needs and circumstances of the child, and will encourage them to grow in confidence and independence wherever possible.

The Council will encourage and promote sustainable travel options and will aim to improve the physical well-being of those who use them and/or the environment. To this end, priority will be given to walking, cycling, public transport, and shared transport.

Applications must be received by the close of business on **Tuesday 30th June**. Swindon Borough Council will endeavour to action any eligible applications received after this date, but cannot guarantee that transport will be in place for the start of the academic year.

Please contact the SEN Travel Advisor for any questions on the application process, which haven't been answered on the website via email at SENTravel@swindon.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely



SEND Service Travel Team



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Application criteria explained

Distance Criteria

The first criteria we apply looks at how far your child lives from school, this is called the statutory walking distance. The statutory walking distance is calculated using the **shortest, safest** walking distance from home to school.

To work out what this may be, you can calculate this through Google Maps at the following link:

<https://www.google.com/maps/dir///@51.5787298,-1.9043587,12z/data=!4m2!4m1!3e2!5m1!1e2>

Distance criteria in relation to age

Childs age	Distance between home and school
5 to 7 years	More than two miles
8 to 16 years	More than three miles

There is currently no legal duty for travel assistance to be provided to over 16's. However, in cases where the Young Person is over 3 miles from their Educational Establishment and in over 540 hours a year tuition then an exception may be made upon proof of need.

Children under the age of 5 are not eligible for travel assistance as they do not meet the Statutory School age, however proof of need in these circumstances may constitute an exception.

Evidence of need criteria

If your child lives under the statutory distance and you want to apply for travel assistance then you will be asked to provide evidence of need. Evidence can include, but is not limited to, a blue badge, receipt of the mobility component of DLA or PIP, or a consultants letter stating the following:

In my professional opinion, **[insert name here]** cannot reasonably be expected to walk to school (accompanied by an adult), due to his/her mobility problems or because of associated health and safety issues related to his/her Special Educational Needs (SEN) and/or disability.

