

Home to school travel
assistance for children and
young people with SEND

Legislation

- S508B of the Act deals with the duty on local authority to make such travel arrangements as they consider necessary to facilitate attendance at school for eligible children. Schedule 35B of the Act defines eligible children – children of compulsory school age (5 – 16) in an authority’s area for whom free travel arrangements will be required.
- The Council has a statutory duty under Section 10 of the Education and Skills Act 2008 to exercise its functions so as to promote the effective participation in education or training of persons belonging to its area with a view to ensuring that those persons participate in appropriate full time education or training or an apprenticeship.
- The Council also has a statutory duty to publish a Post 16 Transport Policy Statement every year. This statement should set out the arrangements for the provision of transport or otherwise that the authority considers it necessary to make for facilitating the attendance of persons of sixth form age

Main criteria

- There are four factors which may determine if children and young people aged 5-16 are eligible for travel assistance:
 - Statutory walking distance eligibility
 - SEND or significant mobility problems eligibility
 - Unsafe route eligibility
 - Extended rights eligibility

Nottingham City Context

During the 17/18 financial year x number of young people were provided with travel assistance to schools and post 16 settings

385 to special schools (57 of which post 16)

38 to mainstream schools and focus provision (7 of which post 16)

35 to colleges of further education

12 to specialist independent college settings

£2.8 million spend in 17/18 financial year

Actions being taken to drive down costs

- Introduction of Dynamic Purchasing System for procurement of taxis and minibuses
- New policy in place - children and adults travelling together, contribution to post 16 transport
- Rollout of Independent Travel Training scheme to schools
- Optimisation of routes
- Travel assistance assessment for new applicants

VFM– comparison with statistical neighbours

Nottingham lowest spend per head of population for 5-16 transport

Nottingham £33

Highest £79

Median £54

Nottingham 4th lowest spend per head of population post 16 transport

Nottingham £3

Highest £45

Median £23

VFM - continued

The provision of SEND transport significantly drives down additional costs to the Schools Budget through ensuring we meet needs in the City and avoid placing in costly non maintained and independent provision. Benchmarking 2017/18 data in relation to our expenditure per head of 2-18 population on non-maintained/independent provision shows:

- Nottingham spend per head at £28 is the fifth lowest in England
- Compares to a national average of £92 per head
- Compares to an average for our 10 statistical neighbours of £82 per head
- Compares very favourably to some of our near geographic neighbours – Notts £112/head, Leicestershire £181/head and Derby City £144/head