



BEXLEY & BROMLEY INDEPENDENT TRAVEL TRAINING SCHEME

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Everyone should have the opportunity to use public transport. Knowing how to travel safely, effectively and independently, by public transport or other modes, is an essential requirement of life. This is often taken for granted by the majority of the travelling public.

It is often forgotten that at some stage in our lives we have all received travel-training support, whether informally from parents, guardians and family members, or formally, road safety training by teachers or local road safety officers.

However, there are many individuals such as:

- Schoolchildren
- Children with special educational needs
- Older people
- Individuals with learning difficulties or mobility, sensory or mental health difficulties who require support, assistance, mentoring and training in order to safely use public transport.

Travel training teaches independence and skills enabling those who need additional help or support to make journeys independently and safely using public transport. Travel training encompasses a wide range of support and assistance for those who require it.

Travel training is essentially a series of processes by which an individual learns to make a trip on their own and in a safe manner.

New skills may need to be taught such as:

- Reading a timetable
- Keeping safe
- Personal Safety
- queuing
- Telling the time
- Appropriate behavior

Providing someone with the skills to find out which bus they need or teaching Someone how to plan and make a journey by public transport are both classed as
Travel training.

The benefits of a travel training scheme

The provision of travel training offers numerous benefits. These include:

1. Benefits to the Trainee

- Increased sense of confidence and self worth.
- Improved life choices as trainees are able to access work and further education also work experience.
- Increased social activity
- Preparation into adult hood
- Improved social interaction and social skills.

2. Parents and Carers

The ability to travel independently can reduce the trainees' dependency on the Parent or carer as they are less reliant on being driven from A to B. Parents and Carers may even start using or become more regular users of public transport Themselves!

3. Schools and Colleges

There are obvious educational and social benefits for schools and colleges. Many college courses require students to be Travel Trained to access the course. Schools could see the academic and social skill improvements, may even see a positive influence on Ofsted reports, and generally improved public relations. (Please see our healthy drive from the Mayor of London)

Trainers

Employing the right travel trainer is a key element of a successful scheme. There is a range of skills required by travel trainers. The travel trainers have a very responsible role and therefore, are carefully recruited. As the trainer will be working with vulnerable individuals, it will be necessary to conduct a (DBS) disclosure & Baring checks. All trainers are carefully matched to the needs of the individual.

The travel trainer must be able to see situations from the perspective of the trainee. If the trainee has a disability, the trainer must be able to understand how this disability will affect the training process and adapt accordingly. Other desirable skills include Travel Training Accreditation, Risk Assessment course, first Aid trained, Disability awareness course and Safeguarding course.

Most trainers have completed BSL sign awareness courses.

Initial Assessment of Trainee

Before any training is undertaken, it is important to determine the skills and capabilities that the individual already has and determine which basic skills are missing.

This will be assessed at the initial quiz. It is important we have this information formally assessed and documented. This allows a baseline to be established which can form the basis of the training programme for the individual.

The use of quiz will be set as an assessment of the trainee's current knowledge and experience. The topics that need to be assessed will include:

- Green Cross Code
- Knowledge of area
- Appropriate behaviour
- Road safety
- Personal safety
- Previous experience of travel

The Travel Training Process

Training begins with pedestrian training, teaching the pupils the different types of crossings hazardous junctions and this training is to teach the pupil to make their own decisions on safer places to cross. We recommend that parents ask about their child's Travel Training and help them with encouragement.

The next stage is fully accompanied travel door to door, teaching how to read bus stops, look for landmarks to locate correct bus stops recognizing bus numbers to embark and disembark. This is also encompassing how to deal with busy noisy buses, and bus stops. There is a big emphasis on personal safety awareness... This is ongoing throughout the whole training process...Trainees are taught how to use their Oyster / Freedom card and take care of it, what to do if they miss their stop & how to ask for assistance.

Usually the trainee when confident, and with the trainer feels the trainee is ready, they start short unaccompanied journeys, i.e. meet at corner, then bus stop. Gradually this process is moved along until the trainee is able to complete the whole journey independently.

RED BUS DAY WORKSHOPS

Trainees will access the Red bus Day, this is a one-day workshop with the whole of the travel training team, safer transport police teams, local bus garages and drivers.

The workshop is all about personal safety whilst travelling. Including

Safer people to talk to

Better choices

Transport

Route mapping/ journey planning

What to do if things do not go according to plan

Bus breakdown

Taking control of lives and choices

Independence.

Emphasizing on Personal safety

The final stage is SHADOWING

The trainee thinks they are going independently but a trainer is shadowing them along their journey.

If training is successful, SEN transport is then terminated.

The trainee is presented with a completion certificate, and trainers are always monitoring the students through the academic year.

How to gain access to the course

The course is free for any child within the borough traveling on SEN provided transport.

Mini programs are also available to schools at a chargeable rate.

Private Travel Training is also available at a chargeable rate.

If you have, any enquiries please contact.

BATS Travel Training Manager

Sandy Muse on 01322 311333 Option 4

Company Details	Bexley Accessible Transport Office 9 Thames Road Thames Road Depot Dartford Kent DA1 5QJ Tel: 01322 311 333 main Line BATS Email: sandy.muse@bexleyct.co.uk
Activity Risk	To train individuals with learning disabilities to plan and travel independently on public transport
Task	Methods

Assess trainee	Initial Health and Safety Quiz, Pedestrian Quiz to assess knowledge and experience
Pedestrian Training	Practical sessions walking on a route where trainee will encompass more types of crossings and potential hazards training will encompass, crossing between parked cars, hazardous junctions, T-junctions, crossroads, zebra crossings, islands, underpasses, pelican crossings. Teaching road signs, pavement training and safer places to cross
Route & Risk Assessment	Assessment of route from home to school and return journey. Safest journey chosen for student, carrying out a risk assessment of the route trained.
Accompanied Journey	Door to door accompanied journeys on a daily basis, Travel support card given to student and explained. Continuous bus stop training, safer places to sit on the bus. Safer places to stand at bus stops, journey planner, appropriate behaviour. Taught lesson of what to do if you miss your stop. Taught how to deal with noisy crowded places, taught how to deal with inappropriate passengers or pedestrian. Stranger Danger,
Short unaccompanied Journeys	This is done slowly; the first stage will be to meet at the end of the road and gradually increasing to meet at the bus stop. As trainee's confidence and ability develops, the trainer may get on bus either before or after these unaccompanied journeys are always shadowed.
Shadowing	Shadowing is where the trainer is following the student, the trainer is fully aware of the trainee's route and knows where the trainee should be at times. If there are points, we need to re- address we go back a stage.
Completion	Certificate are presented to the students, by the trainer at School Assembly. The trainers continue to shadow to ensure trainees are traveling in a correct and safe manner.
Appendices	Audit trail is in place on each pupil throughout the process and consist of; Child travel checklist Data information sheet Quiz Health and Safety assessment Pedestrian training Completing BATS working modules

	Route Assessment Personal Risk Assessment Journey Planner Travel Support Card Emergency Procedures Pedestrian Training Progress forms Travel Training progress forms Red Bus Day workshop Shadowing progress forms Recorded parent meeting Parent/carer feedback form Completion letter Completion certificate
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BATS work in partnership with local borough school, attending parent’s evenings and being as involved as possible with school activities.

BATS work with the new Education and Health Care Plan is to assist in the preparation for adult hood. Not just GCSE results but the whole outcome & achievements of the young person. Students need to be integrated into adulthood working towards a student’s strengths, not limitations...

Aiming for the best possible educational & other outcomes.

To assist in the development of the young person & to help them achieve this. Active collaboration with parents, remaining sensitive to the circumstances of all families.

**Following the EHC framework on progression of all students
*PLAN, ASSESS, DO, AND REVIEW.***

**Working with the Childs & Families act 2014
And the BATS ethos “Every child matter’s”
Revised Addition Oct 2017**