



**DARLINGTON  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

# **SEND Travel Assistance Policy**

# Introduction

- Darlington Borough Council recognises the pressures faced by parents of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and undertakes to provide statutory transport services in accordance with the Department of Education Guidance on Home to School Travel and Transport.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/home-to-school-travel-and-transport-guidance>
- Consultation on Darlington Borough Council's SEND Travel Assistance Policy (covered within the Darlington Borough Council Schools Transport policy <https://www.darlington.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-years/school-transport/>) aims to clarify eligibility; when and how transport may be provided and what further options can be made available for parents to access.



# Transport Statistics

Darlington Borough Council currently transports children and young people with SEND to:

- 38 educational establishments across the North East.

Currently we transport the following children and young people:

- 91 in primary settings
- 153 in secondary settings
- 44 in Further Education settings
- 16 within 19+ continuing education



# Vision

- Darlington Borough Council is committed to ensuring that every child and young person can fulfil their potential and is supported in doing so.
- The aim of the Travel Assistance Policy is to support all children with SEND to lead lives which are as independent as possible.
- Where possible children and young people will be supported in achieving greater independence through the development of independent travel skills.



# Five Key Proposals

The five key proposals for the consultation are:

1. The introduction of a specific travel assistance policy to support children and young people with SEND.
2. To introduce an annual review of travel assistance to take account of the personal development of a child and young person with SEND and to identify opportunities to promote independence.
3. To offer a cash allowance or direct payment in the form of a personal assistance budget to allow greater flexibility for families to make their own arrangements.
4. Travel assistance will be offered for the nearest suitable placement which meets a child or young person's needs.
5. To offer independent travel training to give children and young people the confidence and skills to attend their educational provision.



# Challenges/Opportunities

Darlington Borough Council recognises the challenges that parents/carers face in meeting the conflicting demands on their time. We seek views on the varied travel opportunities that can be offered and which are aimed at meeting the individual needs of their child/young person.

We are committed to working closely with children and young people, parents, carers, educational establishments and transport providers. This is to ensure that we are best considering the strengths and abilities and needs of children and young people so that they are provided with appropriate and proportionate assistance.



# How can I give my views?

- All comments and views expressed today will be noted.
- We have provided hard copies of the electronic survey which you can complete today or return in the pre-paid envelope.
- We also have a survey on our website:

[www.Darlington.gov.uk/SEND](http://www.Darlington.gov.uk/SEND)

Thank you for attending today.

