



Quick Guide to

Home To School Transport

What we do:

The Home to School Transport Team are responsible for delivering the Local Authority's statutory function to ensure that every eligible child in the borough can attend their nearest appropriate school.

Local Authority must make transport arrangements for all children who cannot reasonably be expected to walk to school because of their mobility problems or because of associated health and safety issues related to their special educational needs (SEN) or disability.

The Team coordinates travel assistance for children of compulsory school age with Special Educational Needs, Looked after Children and children from families with low income. The team is responsible for commissioning transport, allocating free school Bus passes, Personal Transport Budgets, and updating Home to school transport policies in line with government guidelines.

What are the aims of the Home to School Transport Team?

The overall aim of the service is to ensure that every eligible child in Walsall can access their nearest appropriate school. There are four categories all of which cover only children of compulsory school age who attend "qualifying schools" and:

- Live beyond the statutory walking distance
- Children with SEN, disabilities or mobility problems who cannot reasonably be expected to walk to school
- Children whose route to school is unsafe (No Pavements or Street lighting)
- Children from low income families

For Post 16 pupils

- We provide advice and support to access transport
- For SEN Post 16 pupils up the age of 25 we can offer travel assistance and support depending on their need

How do we do it?

- We plan and co-ordinate Home to School Transport to all Special Schools across Walsall in partnership with a number of local operators across the borough.
- We commission transport provision by utilising Public Service Buses, Minibuses, Taxis and specialist vehicles
- We provide free school bus passes for pupils from families with low income
- We refer pupils to Independent Travel Training
- We provide Personal Transport Budgets for parents of Special needs pupils who wish to transport their own children to school
- We provide advice to post 16 pupils on accessing transport to college and university
- Support Post 16 pupils with SEN up to the age of 25 who are unable to make their own arrangements
- We manage whole school contracts and individual contracts for over 800 pupils/students and 95 schools/colleges both inside and outside the Borough
- We provide Passenger Assistants Training (PATs) and safeguarding training to Drivers and Passenger Assistants, carry out DBS checks and badge all PA's
- We work with Walsall's PH/HC Licencing department, and partner the DVSA on vehicle and site inspections for all our operators

For more information visit our website at:

https://go.walsall.gov.uk/schools_and_learning/schools_in_walsall/home_to_school_transport

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Or

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Walsall Council