



School Travel Newsletter December 2019

Travel training

Bradford Council's Travel Training Team have been awarded the Transport Equality Achievement Award by People First and Bradford & District Disabled People's Forum, for their tireless training work with children, young people and adults.

The Council has a team of experienced Travel Training Officers who work with children, young people and adults, many of them with Special Education Needs and/or Disabilities to help promote their independence. The Council promotes walking, travel training and bus/train travel as the first options for travel. The provision of specialist transport is provided only when other options are not viable.

To support this, the Council employs a number of travel trainers who support young people to learn the skills to access public transport. Over the last 12 months 42 children, young people and adults have been trained and now travel to education or employment by bus or train.

Travel training has now become so popular that the Council has contracted with Keyfort to provide extra capacity around travel training.

Passenger Transport Services (PTS)

The Council has begun a programme to replace a number of the PTS wheelchair accessible minibuses. The first batch of these new vehicles are scheduled to arrive and begin service in April 2020.

Online application forms.

The Council has developed a new on-line application form and process for assessing eligibility for travel assistance. In developing the new form, staff have looked to take in to account the many issues raised by parents and schools over the past two years and balance this with the information required to make a fair assessment.

All new applications for travel assistance from September 2019 are being made using the new form and process. We would like all new applications to be made using the new on-line application form which is available on the Council's website at the link below.

<https://www.bradford.gov.uk/education-and-skills/travel-assistance/assistance-with-travel-to-home-school-and-college/>

Reassessment of students on transport.

As part of the new assessment process each eligible child is given a reassessment date. The date is included within the letter sent to parents after an initial assessment is made. Some



children may only be assessed at each key stage or transition between schools, while some children will have an assessment on a yearly basis. Assessment periods are determined by the needs of the child.

Personal Travel Assistance Budgets (PTABs)

A PTAB is granted at the discretion of the Council for eligible children who receive travel assistance because of special educational needs or have a disability. It may not always be possible to offer a PTAB, particularly if it would have an adverse impact on a service provided for other transport users, or where it is not an efficient use of the Council's finances.

To ensure that the PTAB continues to be cost effective for the Council and to ensure everyone is treated fairly, each child receiving a PTAB will now be reassessed each year. Parents will be contacted by the Travel Assistance Service to discuss a change in arrangements if there is one to be made.

PTAB's and the Her Majesties Revenue and Customs (HMRC)

PTABs are not a benefit. Any income from a PTAB isn't taxable nor should it affect any benefit claim for parents or carers participating in the scheme. However, it is your responsibility to check with any relevant services that this is the case for your own personal circumstances.

Parental Responsibilities

- Please make sure your child is ready for collection prior to your child's transport arriving.
- Please make sure a responsible adult is in the house in the afternoon when your child is due to arrive home.
- If your child requires a harness to travel, please make sure your child is in the harness prior to your vehicle arriving. It is not the responsibility of the escort or the driver to do this.
- If your child is not travelling to school in the morning or returning from school in the afternoon, please call the planning team on 01274 436692 to alert them of this.
- Could we remind parents that children with mobile phones are not allowed to take photos or videos whilst travelling in vehicles. This is to protect the privacy of others.
- We ask parents to provide headphones for those children who wish to listen to music via their phone, so as not to disturb other travellers or the drivers of vehicles.

Finding out more

The Council's policies on assistance with travel to home, school and college are available on the [Council's website](#).

Contact us

For queries about travel assistance and travel training, contact the Travel Assistance Service on 01274 439450.



When bad weather affects your transport

How will I know if transport is running or has been cancelled?

In the event of bad weather (e.g. snow, ice) minibuses and taxis may not be able to reach their destination safely – especially as many of our customers do not live on main roads.

Decisions regarding transport are always based on the safety and wellbeing of the children and adults that we transport. In the case of bad weather you can get up-to-date information by:

Listening to your local radio station for updates.....

Sunrise Radio **103.2**, Radio Leeds **92.4** fm and Pulse **102.5** fm

**Logging on to Bradford Schools Online
Website: bso.bradford.gov.uk**

Logging on to Bradford Council’s website: www.bradford.gov.uk

If there are any school closures, a link will appear on the home page. Click on ‘*Winter weather and gritting*’, then select ‘*Disruptions: School closures*’

Hint: Why not save this page in your ‘favourites’ or ‘bookmarks’?

Calling us on the following numbers...



PTS Minibus for children or adults	02174-438889
PTS Home to school taxis	01274-436692
PTS Adult or Looked after children	01274-437275

Should you call these numbers you may receive a recorded message as the phone lines are likely to be extremely busy in such circumstances



You can also follow us on twitter **@bradfordalerts**

