



DO ✓ ITT

Do Independent Travel Training



What is Independent Travel Training?

Independent Travel Training (ITT) helps young people with special educational needs learn how to travel to school or college by public transport. At Dorin Park, we work with students across Cheshire West and Chester who require ITT to access various schools and colleges across the borough.

How does the training work?

Once a referral has been received, the student will be allocated a personal Independent Travel Trainer. Each trainer is accredited by the Open College Network (OCN) and has an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

An initial meeting will be arranged with the student and their parents/carers to discuss the proposed training and to assess the individual's current experience and competence of travelling outside the home. The trainer will then outline a training programme which will be specific to each individual's needs. A personalised journey plan is created which is fully risk assessed to ensure it is the most appropriate and safest route. Parental permission must be received prior to commencement of ITT.

Training will usually take place at the time the student needs to travel to and from their educational establishment. Extra training may be offered on days that they are not attending their learning provider.

When the student has demonstrated that they are able to confidently and competently undertake the journey they will be assessed by another Travel Trainer who will shadow the student on the route. If the student successfully and safely completes the route, a meeting will then be arranged to discuss the training and complete the final paperwork. The student will then be able to travel independently to and from their school or college using the planned route.





What are the aims of Independent Travel Training?

- ✓ Increase independence
- ✓ Increase self confidence
- ✓ Develop decision making and problem solving skills
- ✓ Develop social skills
- ✓ Provide opportunities to access to hobbies and activities
- ✓ Provide opportunities to access future learning and training
- ✓ Provide opportunities to access to future jobs

What does the training involve?

- ✓ Route planning
- ✓ Road safety awareness
- ✓ Personal safety awareness
- ✓ How to use a bus
- ✓ How to use a train
- ✓ Problem solving for example, what to do if a bus is late or cancelled
- ✓ What to do in an emergency situation

What benefits does Independent Travel Training provide?

- ✓ The ability for the student to travel on their own
- ✓ The use of sustainable forms of travel (such as walking, cycling and public transport)
- ✓ Increased independence, confidence and self-esteem
- ✓ Increased opportunities to participate in social and leisure activities
- ✓ Access to future learning, training and employment opportunities
- ✓ Improvement in personal health, well-being and quality of life
- ✓ Less reliance on family and friends
- ✓ Receipt of a concessionary travel pass enabling free travel after 09:30am and half fare before 09:30am.

Students who have successfully completed Independent Travel Training report feeling generally happier, more confident and prepared to access further education, training and job opportunities.

Who can apply?

Independent Travel Training is available to young people with special educational needs and/or a disability who are eligible for travel assistance in accordance with Cheshire West and Chester Council's 'Home to Educational Establishment Transport Policy'.

How to apply

Referrals for ITT can be made by: students, parents/carers, SEND officers, social workers or school/college staff.

They can be submitted by completing a referral form via our online portal: <https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/education-and-learning/school-and-college-transport/independent-travel-training.aspx>

Or by completing the referral form found under 'how to apply' at <https://www.dorinpark.co.uk/contact-us/independent-travel-training-itt/>

and sending it either:

via email to: SchoolPlanningandPolicy@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Or via post to: Cheshire West and Chester Council - Education Service
School Planning and Policy Team
Floor 3 - Nicholas House
FAO: Barbara Crane
c/o 4 Civic Way
Ellesmere Port
CH65 0BE



Case Studies



Student A has a diagnosis of Autism and was studying GCSEs at the time of ITT. He had previously undertaken some ITT sessions but felt he wouldn't be able to achieve it and requested that the training stopped.

After some consideration Student A expressed that he was ready to have another go at ITT as he really wanted to travel to school with his friends. Mum and school were initially apprehensive, although supported his ambition. Throughout the training Student A engaged well with the sessions, he listened and asked relevant questions. Over the weekends Mum spent time with him travelling on the route and was pleasantly surprised how confident he was. Student A held a house key and his parents soon became confident that he could travel home from school and let himself in the house.

Since accomplishing the home to school journey, Student A now walks independently into town to meet his Dad at the gym.

Student B was offered ITT on a few occasions but his parents felt that he was not ready to take that step. Student B was very eager to travel independently and persuaded his parents that it was the right time.

Throughout the training Student B was really open and would tell the trainer if he needed more support on certain points of the route. His confidence grew and he soon felt that he could do some of the route by himself, only meeting with the trainer at the points where he felt less confident.

Student B was shadowed by the trainer whilst he completed the route independently on a few occasions and demonstrated a good understanding of the route and the correct safety procedures. Mum expressed that she was pleased to see how at ease Student B felt about the training. He would talk to her about how easy it was to pick up the training and how good it made him feel.

Quickly, after completing ITT Student B had been to town twice, getting himself some lunch and picking up some food for his tea. He has also been to the local garden centre and said, "I feel like I have really achieved something going to the garden centre and into town on my own." His future goals are to expand his social circle, something he has been longing to do.

Further Information

For further information about Independent Travel Training please contact:

Laura Sutton (Senior ITT Co-ordinator)

Address: Dorin Park School, Wealstone Lane, Upton, Chester, CH2 1HD

Email: laura.sutton@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Telephone: 07500604833

Or:

Barbara Crane (School Travel Assistance Manager)

Cheshire West and Chester Council - Education Service

Email: barbara.crane@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Telephone: 01244 973046 or 07769936047

