

HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT – PERSONAL TRAVEL BUDGETS

What is a PTB?

Funding that allows you to make your own flexible travel arrangements to school/college rather than travelling on a vehicle provided by the Council.

A sum of money paid to parents/carers of children/young people with SEND who qualify for free school transport.

What are the benefits of a PTB?

- Fixed regular payments – you will always know what you receive
- Freedom and flexibility to choose the most appropriate transport arrangements, to fit with your own personal circumstances
- Greater control over the services or resources you would like to support your child/young person's needs
- The opportunity to explore shared transport options with other parents and potentially increase what you can do with your PTB, such as arranging group transport or walking buses
- Total flexibility on where and when your child/young person is picked up, for example, if you want your child/young person to attend and after school/college club or go to a grandparents/carers after school/college
- Opportunity to use your PTB to develop your child/young person's independence around travel and develop life skills using public transport (where appropriate)
- Enables a child/young person to attend the dentist/doctor and still be transported to school/college, or to leave school/college in order to attend a medical appointment.

How can PTB be used?

It can be spent how you like, as long as your child travels in a way that ensures their safety, encourages their attendance and they arrive at school on time and in a positive manner ready to learn.

Ideas for spending include –

- Purchasing a travel pass for yourself or a trusted adult to accompany your child
- Paying for a passenger assistant for your child to walk or to travel by public transport, or arrange to do this yourself
- Covering the cost of driving your child
- Covering the cost of child care for a sibling to enable you to take your child
- Arrange your own locally sourced transport – access our list of taxi providers or use your own
- Arranging for other parents for shared travel, such as shared driving responsibilities, walking buses or joint taxi bookings
- Purchase bikes for you and your child and support climate change initiatives

How much will I get? –

The calculation is based on the distance between home and school/college for the days your child attends school. The distance is measured using the shortest route and is from home to school to home for each journey.

How is it paid?

Payment is made from us directly into your (parent/carers) designated bank account, in advance, at the beginning of each term. You must provide the appropriate bank details at the time of signing the agreement.

Do I need receipts of spend?

No, the scheme leaves the flexibility and control of spending with yourselves. We will monitor your child's attendance and pick up any potential issues through the school/college record of attendance.

Will it continue in future years?

The PTB agreement will be reviewed each year. As children and young people grow older, it is likely that they will wish to become independent travellers. Independent travel is an important life skill and can help children and young people to access further education, training, social and employment opportunities.

Can it be stopped at any time, if it does not work?

Yes, by either us or yourself as parent/carer. If your circumstances change substantially alternative forms of travel assistance can be arranged usually within two weeks of your notice. Additionally, in monitoring your child's attendance if it is not as regular as the school/college think it should be.

Will it impact on benefits?

No personal travel budgets do not affect any other benefits you might receive.

Will the payments be taxed?

The personal travel budget is a payment made in relation to the child/young person, not the parent/carer and so should not affect your tax situation. It is used to enable your child/young person to get to and from school/college each day in a safe and legal way and should not be used for any other purpose. If you have concerns that it may impact on your tax situation, you may want to seek your own advice from a tax expert in relation to your personal circumstances.

Why personalise travel to and from school/college?

To support individual family circumstances and improve the journey for your child –

- Some families would like to take their child to school but can not afford to
- Some children find the journey too long, tiring and stressful
- Some children want to attend after school activities which they can't because the school taxi/bus leaves at the end of the school day.

HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT – PERSONAL TRAVEL BUDGETS

Personal Travel Budget Calculation

The calculation below demonstrates the £ value of your Personal Travel Budget (PTB)

Calculations are based on a distance measurement (miles) from home to school/college (using GIS mapping tool shortest driving distance) (Column A)

4 journeys per day (outward journey: home to school/college to home and inward journey: home to school/college to home) (Column B)

190 days per academic year (5 days per week x 38 weeks per academic year) (Column C)

Mileage rate: 45 pence per mile for all miles up to 10,000 per academic year

NOTE: if your child's attendance varies from the example used (190 days) and adjustment will be made to the calculations below.

Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E
Distance from home address to school/college	No of journeys per day	No of school days per academic year	Total miles per academic year	Total PTB (£)
1	4	190	760	£342.00
2	4	190	1520	£684.00
3	4	190	2280	£1,026.00
4	4	190	3040	£1,368.00
10	4	190	7600	£3,420.00