

**Ref: Home to School Travel Policy 2025-2026 Consultation**

Date: 06/01/2025

Dear Parent / Carer / Guardian,

**Ref: Home to School Travel Support Policy 2025-2026 Consultation**

Home to School Travel support is currently provided for children and young people within Swindon who require additional support in getting to and / or from their educational setting and who are eligible under policy. The policy document provides children, young people and their families with information on what the council offers, who this support is available to, and what to do if a decision is made that a family may not agree with. This policy only applies to children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

We are looking to gain the community's views on a number of proposals for the 0-25 Home to School Travel Support Policy 2025-2026.

The consultation will commence on **6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and will run until 30<sup>th</sup> March 2025**; and we will be consulting with families on the below proposals:

**1) Introduce a charging model for Post-16 Travel Assistance (ages 16-18) including Personal Travel Budgets (PTB's) organised by the Local Authority.**

- Including for those with SEND (Special Educational Needs and / or Disability) from September 2025 except in the following instance:
  - If a young person is eligible for free school meals.
- The model proposed will be a full recovery system, meaning that excluding the above cohort, families will be required to fund the full cost of post-16 travel support (until the age of 19).
- Any proposed charging model is proposed to be based on a means tested system.

**2) Personal Travel Budgets (ages 0-25):**

- In cases where individuals are receiving a personal travel budget, attendance data will be collected from the educational setting every half term. Any journeys not taken will then be added up, and the total cost will be deducted from the next Personal Travel Budget payment.

- For example: If 2 days of school were missed, at a total of 15 miles not travelled, then £6.75 will be deducted from the next payment (15 x 45p – the per mile amount as of September 2023).
- The recovery of money following non-attendance will not be based on a means tested system, and will apply to all children and young people (aged 0-25 with an EHCP) receiving a Personal Travel Budget.

**3) Minor wording changes, and updated service information:**

- This includes making sure that contact details are up to date, and the language we use is accessible for everyone.

Implementing the above proposals will bring us in line with other Local Authorities, who have practiced this for many years.

In order to have your say on the above proposals, please follow the link below to our online survey:

<https://forms.office.com/e/1y9Ar9AiWj>

This link will also be shared on the Swindon Borough Council social media, and so keep an eye out for it there also.

We would kindly ask that you provide feedback on this consultation through the above link only, and that you do not contact the SEND Service/Travel teams directly regarding this matter. This is to make sure that all feedback is collected through the formal channel.

We would encourage you / your child / young person to respond to this survey, as well as share this with anyone you know who may be affected by the above proposals. We value your feedback on this matter, and all responses will be used in order to make a recommendation to Cabinet.

We encourage families who may be impacted by this decision to explore the Independent Travel Training Offer, which provides young people the lifelong skills needed to move about the community independently. Support is provided for young people to develop confidence in travelling using a range of methods such as: public transport, on foot or by bicycle, and is free of charge for all families. You can contact the Independent Travel Hub via Email at [independenttravel@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:independenttravel@swindon.gov.uk) or by telephone on 01793 464166

Kind Regards,

The SEND Service