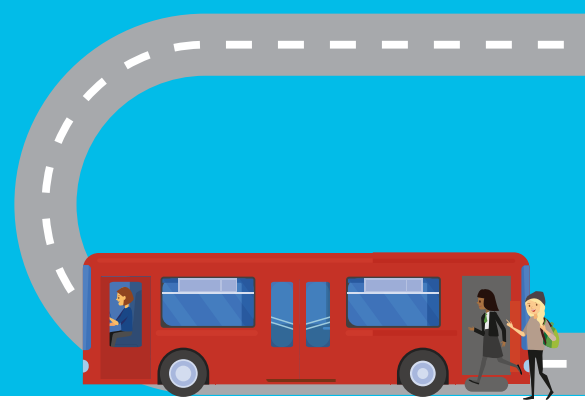


NEXT STEPS

Independent Travel Training Newsletter

JULY 2026 EDITION



Since September 2022 we're proud to share that **107 young people** across Warwickshire have successfully completed our free Independent Travel Training programme and are now confidently travelling to school, college, volunteering placements or work completely independently.

ITT is available for students:

- with an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP)
- aged between 11 and 25
- who have a Warwickshire address
- who are currently using (or are entitled to) transport assistance (either free or paid)

Please be aware:

- Journeys must be from home to school/college/work placement/training provider by using public transport within Warwickshire.
- Journeys will usually be no longer than one hour.
- Successful completion of ITT will result in the withdrawal of specialist transport assistance. A bus pass will be provided in the form of a free concessionary or a free commercial bus pass.

We work closely with each learner to help them:

- Understand road safety and journey planning
- Use travel apps, maps and timetables

- Navigate public transport with confidence
- Prepare for 'what if' scenarios to build problem solving skills
- Know who and where to ask for help

Every learner we support receives a newly developed learner portfolio which guides them through the key skills they need to travel step by step. Upon completion, they receive their free bus pass (concessionary or commercial) and travel wallet to celebrate their success and mark the start of many independent journeys.



We'd love to visit your school, college or event!

The team has worked hard to develop and create an ever-expanding network of contacts.

During the 2025/2026 academic year, we have attended:

16 different establishments for career/future fair/conference events – we loved attending and meeting the young people

In addition to 1:1 training, we offer engaging learner presentations and preparation sessions at the school/college that help young people explore the benefits of ITT in a supportive, familiar setting.

As a result of these presentations, we are aiming to work with education staff to identify groups of young people where ITT could be of benefit. Once identified, we aim to work with the school/college and liaise with the family/carers to discuss possible next steps as we help parents/carers to help prepare their young people for independent life.

We also attend career events and transition fairs across the county, where we speak with students, parents and professionals about the life changing benefits of travel training.

If you are hosting a transition event, careers week or SEND specific fair, we would love to come along and support your students in learning about the practical steps towards independent travel. Please feel free to contact the team tt@warwickshire.go.uk

Why Independent Travel training matters - Long term benefits. This isn't just about accessing public transport.

By developing the ability to travel alone young people unlock: Increased confidence and a stronger sense of self

Greater access to education, employment and social opportunities

Reduced reliance on family or support services

These skills open the door to a more empowered future, one where young people can take control of their own routines, choices and paths in life.



Meet the team

We currently have five Travel Trainers and a Team Manager in Warwickshire.

They are...

**Hello
I'm Liz**



I have been one of the Travel Trainers here at Warwickshire County Council since 2018. I mostly cover South Warwickshire which includes Warwick, Leamington and Kenilworth but, really, I can be anywhere that's located in Warwickshire. What I most enjoy about my role is seeing young people thrive and gain confidence whilst gaining individual skills to carry out a journey to school, college or work placement independently.

**Hello
I'm
Georgia**



I joined the team in November 2022 and have supported lots of young people to independently travel on public transport. I find the job extremely rewarding and love to see the young people I work with grow in confidence and self-belief. I believe this service is important in allowing young people to gain their own independence and open doors that may have been closed for them before. It is a privilege to help them along their journey and I look forward to training many more young people in the future.

**Hello
I'm
Nicola**



I have worked as a Travel Trainer since 2021. I enjoy seeing the young people's confidence and self-esteem grow as they progress through the stages of travel training. The role is rewarding, and no two days are the same

**Hello
I'm Tom**



I have been the team manager for the team since January 2023 and it's been great to see how much the service has grown. The team is passionate about helping young people around Warwickshire, so please reach out if you think it would benefit any young people in your lives. We want to grow the service without losing any of the quality. I have loved getting out with the team to watch as the young people learn the skills they will use throughout their lives, in education or work.

**Hello
I'm
Chloe**



I joined the ITT team in November 2025, having previously worked for WCC as an Occupational Therapist. This role enables me to draw on my transferable skills in promoting independence, problem solving, and activity analysis. I am passionate about building positive relationships with my learners and supporting them to develop lifelong skills that make a meaningful difference to their confidence and future opportunities. The most rewarding part of my role is seeing learners achieve things they once found challenging and how their belief in their own abilities grows along the way.

**Hello
I'm Jude**



My background knowledge of SEND gained whilst working for Warwickshire Integrated Disability Service and the Specialist Teaching Service since 2010, plus previous SEND employment with students with Autism and Communication needs has helped me to best support and train my learners in using public buses and in road safety awareness.

With understanding, direction and encouragement my learners have gained in confidence to use public services, communicate effectively and be proud of their achievements.

My favourite part of the job is helping Young People develop their skills to the point that I am not needed anymore or more importantly reliance on carers is not needed for them to travel within the community. They have become independent.

Case study 1

The road to independence: A Travel Training success story



One of our recent travel training success stories highlights just how transformative this support can be for young people and their families.

When JT first began his travel training, he understandably felt uncertain about navigating the bus journey on his own. Busy roads and unexpected changes were all areas that needed guidance and reassurance. Through constant support and repetitive journeys, we worked step by step to build both practical skills and confidence. Early sessions focused on essential road safety, recognising hazards and understanding how to make safe and sensible decisions. We explored personal safety and what to do if something doesn't feel quite right, where and who to go to if help was needed. As confidence grew, JT began to take the lead on our journeys to school, taking note of key landmarks, pressing the bell when needing to depart and using the app to see the whereabouts of his bus. JT developed the skill to adapt, road closures meant using different buses from different bus stops, he learnt how to stay calm, reassess and make safe alternative choices. Today JT is confidently and safely travelling to and from school on his own. Not only has he gained practical travel skills, but he has also developed in resilience, self-belief and independence. JT will also be travelling by bus to college when he starts in September. Well done JT!

Case study 2

Meet AC, a young man who currently attends college and wishes to become more confident in using public transport.

Building my confidence through Independent Travel Training.

I met with AC once a week, on a Monday for around 10 weeks. In the past, he has gotten public transport independently, but he was unsure of this new route and needed some support and guidance.

AC always had a very positive attitude each week, even when it meant he had to get up a little earlier to leave home, he was always willing and very cooperative in wanting to learn new skills to ensure he could get the bus to college.

The travel trainer worked with AC and his family to plan the route and look at bus times to create an individual programme which would allow him to progress at his own pace at each stage of the journey. His route involved catching one bus and using pedestrian and road crossing skills.

AC began travelling with his trainer to become familiar with the route from his home to college and practising the return journey. As AC gained confidence the trainer started to withdraw their support, initially walking behind him to encourage him to make his own decisions and to observe and then later allowing him to complete parts of the journey independently.

At the end of every session, parents were kept up to date on the progress he was making throughout his Travel Training journey, and any worries or concerns were shared.



BG's Journey: Growing Independence Through Challenge and Personal Achievement

BG enrolled on the Independent Travel Training (ITT) programme despite much of the experience being outside of his comfort zone. Throughout his journey, it has been extremely positive to observe BG's confidence steadily grow on each step towards becoming independent when using public buses and crossing roads.

A Suitability Assessment was completed in school, followed by travel training preparation sessions. These sessions focused on understanding how to read the timetable, identify the correct route and bus number, and locate the appropriate bus stop. Visual supports were used, including photographs of the inside and outside of the bus, to help BG plan where he might choose to sit and understand how to scan his bus pass. This also helped to prepare him for what he could expect to see or hear, including noise levels and the number of passengers. Strategies were discussed to support BG with these sensory and environmental challenges.

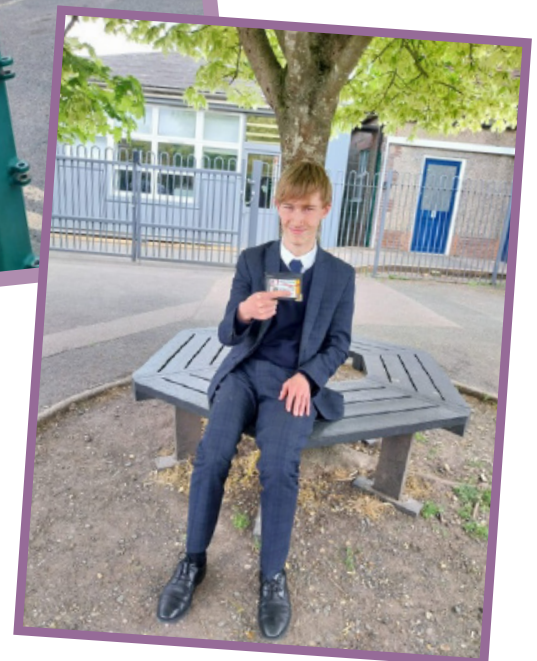
On the first journey BG was feeling extremely anxious and was visibly shaking, despite setting this personal challenge for himself to travel independently to school. BG was understandably very proud of himself for attempting the journey and shared his achievement with several teachers, including the head teacher.

During training we continued in school preparation and planning sessions. BG could successfully sequence the journey cards, and this supported BG to talk confidently about the bus journey, including identifying key landmarks he had noticed

along the route. The use of visual supports helped to strengthen BG's organisational skills and clearly demonstrated his understanding of the journey steps and the preparation required before travelling.

BG completed the step-by-step Learner Portfolio after each session and together, we reviewed his progress and were able to tick off several additional achievements from each journey, recognising the skills he had demonstrated.

Overall, BG built strong independent travel skills and adaptability throughout the training. BG continues to build upon this newly developed skill and can transfer the strategies so is now using the bus independently to school and to travel to the local library to revise for his exams, demonstrating a positive transfer of skills into everyday life.



Parent/carer feedback

“As parents, we felt entirely comfortable with the Independent Travel Training Programme from the very beginning. The programme was extremely well structured, professional, and clearly tailored to support young people with additional needs in building confidence and independence when travelling.”

We are extremely grateful for the support provided through the programme and would highly recommend it to other families considering independent travel training for their children.”

“I received frequent updates on my daughters progress. I was given specific feedback on areas she found challenging and information on how this would be addressed during her next session.”

“The travel trainer kept us fully informed throughout the whole of the training”

“I was given lots of information on what to expect, potential bus routes, potential wait times for the travel training service and what would happen throughout the training process.”

Young person feedback

What did you enjoy about the programme?

“I found this service very worthwhile and efficient - it has definitely helped me to build my confidence with using public transport facilities, which in turn has encouraged me to become more independent as well as more sociable. I thank all of the team who have enabled me to reach this milestone. I recommend this service”

“Developing my independence and confidence with using public facilities”

“Being able to travel on the bus with someone to support me.”

“Everything - especially his increased feeling of independence”

“Learning different routes which can help me outside of just getting to college and back. I now know how I can meet friends outside of school and can help them find bus routes too.”

ITT learner journey



Reassurance for parents and carers

We understand that the thought of your child travelling alone can feel daunting – especially if they have always relied on support. That's why our approach is always gentle, person centred and never rushed.

Our team in most cases work one on one with each learner, gradually building up their skills and confidence at a pace that suits them. Safety is at the heart of everything we do, and we keep open communication with parents/carers throughout the training.

There is no pressure to complete the full programme if your young person still does not feel ready, but often, just trying the first steps opens up incredible possibilities.

You are not alone in feeling nervous, we are here to support every step of the way!

How to make a referral

Are you or do you know a young person that could benefit from learning how to travel independently? We have a waiting list so get in as quickly as possible!

Visit:

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/sendtransport

Or scan the QR code



Lets work together to give more young people the skills and freedom to thrive beyond the classroom!

We are proud to have received referrals from the following establishments...

ALP provision

Kingsbury Special School

LAMP

Ignition academy

Nulogic

Oakwood school

The Queen Elizabeth Academy

Discovery

Ash Green School

Hereward

North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College

Warwickshire College (Rugby, Leamington, Moreton Morrell)

Lawrence Sheriff School

Brooke School

Avon Valley

Dare2dream

Stratford Upon Avon secondary school

Lillington hub

Trinity Catholic School

Evergreen School

Alcester Grammar School

Welcombe Hills

New Meanings

Other road safety education services available alongside Independent Travel Training

Warwickshire Safe and Active Schools Programme



Warwickshire Safe and Active Schools Programme, delivered by Warwickshire County Council Road Safety Education Team, supports primary aged children (4–11) to travel safely and actively. This fully funded initiative helps schools build essential road safety skills while encouraging healthier, more active lifestyles.

Participating schools commit to delivering core road safety sessions, engaging in simple data and planning activities, and running active travel initiatives. The programme also supports schools in addressing local issues such as parking and congestion around the school gate.

Currently, around 50% of Warwickshire primary schools are actively involved, with the programme recognised locally and nationally for its positive impact. Schools benefit from a wide range of tailored support, including initiatives, events, and campaigns designed to promote safe and active travel from an early age.

For full details, visit our website:

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/schools-colleges/safe-active-schools-1

To arrange an informal discussion or learn more about how the Road Safety Education Team can support your school, please contact:

roadsafetyeducation@warwickshire.gov.uk



The Journey - Free Road Safety Education for your students (Years 7–13)

The Journey is a fully funded road safety education programme available to all secondary schools, sixth forms and colleges in Warwickshire. Designed for young people aged 11–18, the programme supports the wider PSHE curriculum while addressing the real risks children and young adults face as pedestrians, cyclists, passengers and future drivers.

Our sessions go beyond traditional road safety messages. Using an evidence based approach grounded in behaviour change techniques, The Journey focuses on helping students develop safer decision making, road respect and personal responsibility. Topics include distraction, peer influence, impulse control, and the impact of impairment from alcohol, drugs and fatigue - all key risk factors for young people on the road.

Sessions are interactive, age appropriate and delivered by full time professional road safety officers. We engage students in practical discussion and reflection shown to be more effective in creating lasting behavioural change. Our aim is to provide a toolkit for young people to be aware of, and deal with, the risks of being a road user. Schools consistently report positive feedback from both staff and students.

The programme is completely free to schools, with no costs involved. It's intended to be delivered year on year with each session building upon previous knowledge, supporting young people on their journey as a road user. While delivery can be flexible between one hour classroom sessions or assemblies, meaningful impact relies on consistent, yearly engagement.

To find out more, please follow the link below:
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/schools-colleges/journey

All schools in Warwickshire are eligible, subject to officer capacity. Therefore, early registration is encouraged to ensure availability.

Email: roadsafetysecondary@warwickshire.gov.uk for further information.

