

Draft 0-25 travel assistance policy consultation

Views of children and young people

Birmingham City Council undertook a consultation on a draft travel assistance policy for 0-25 year olds between 15 February 2019 and 2 April 2019. As part of this consultation, we wanted to hear from children and young people about how they feel about the travel assistance they receive, what they like and what they'd like to change.

Consultations were led in the main by schools using a range of specialist communication styles such as braille, symbols and adapted work sheets. Questions were always open to allow pupils to describe a child/ young person focused experience of their home to school journey.

In total 323 pupils responded.

- 126 aged 5-10
- 107 aged 11-16
- 82 aged 16-18
- 8 aged 19+

These children and young people attended 11 special schools (Fox Hollies, Oscott Manor, The Pines, Dame Ellen Pinsent, Springfield House, Skilts, Hunters Hill, Priestley Smith, Calthorpe, James Brindley and Brays).

In two schools, longer sessions were held with young people aged 16-18 and 19+. These sessions were led by Councillor Kate Booth, Cabinet Member for Children's Wellbeing, and an officer from the Local Authority. In these sessions young people described the transition from transport to Independent travel training. From fear to confidence was a common theme. Most notable was the growth in confidence to access transport and activities outside of the school curriculum.

The analysis of the open questions revealed common themes as outlined below.

Things I like or enjoy about my journey

Meeting children/ young people from different schools	Socialising with friends	Sleeping	Listening to music
9	133	15	66

Quality of service

Good driver / drives at a good speed/ friendly/ sensible	Nice and friendly guide	Delivers service – gets me to school and back, safely and on time
81	110	64

Things I don't enjoy

Driving too fast	Children too noisy	Cold/ uncomfortable/ dirty/ rickety/ needs refurbishing	Journey too long
9	68	33	51

Speaking to children and young people, it was clear that their experiences were similar to others with similar conditions. For example, young people attending ASC provision valued quiet on the bus and it arriving at the same time each day. Other young people enjoyed music playing and interaction with the guide. This is incredibly helpful feedback that we need to think about when planning transport routes in future.

The young people also spoke positively about the impact independent travel training had on them.