

ASCOT VALE SPECIAL SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT TRAVEL

POLICY

Rationale:

Travel education gives students independence and an invaluable skill for life beyond school, including the ability to travel for employment, further education and social purposes. Ascot Vale Special School aims to prepare students to travel to and from school independently. As part of our school program, students are given opportunities to practise on public transport with safety the main emphasis.

Aims:

- To increase independence, confidence and improve self-esteem.
- To improve engagement and therefore improve educational outcomes.
- To increase opportunities for accessing further education, training and employment.
- To increase opportunities to participate in social, community and leisure activities, and generally broaden horizons.

Implementation:

1. Independent travel will only be available to students who are 16 years or over.
2. The school will identify students who have developed the skills required to move towards advanced travel education.
3. Parents may request independent travel education because they believe their child is ready to take this step.
4. It is preferable that all students participating in advanced travel education have a working mobile phone.
5. Students carry a card that contains the following information:
 - Student's name and the school attended
 - The student's travel route and modes of transport
 - Relevant emergency telephone numbers.
6. The student is deemed to have achieved the capacity to travel independently when he/she can demonstrate the ability to:
 - Confidently and safely complete the journey both ways unassisted and without supervision.

- Confidently articulate and/or put into practice their problem solving skills and remain calm.
 - Successfully manage any personal concerns about travelling independently.
 - Demonstrate the appropriate behavioural standards on public transport.
7. As parents have the final say as to whether their child will travel independently, the school should meet with the parents again to discuss post-training monitoring.
 8. The student will be involved in the sign-off process and take the opportunity to celebrate their success.
 9. The student will be monitored at the start and end of each journey by the school and family.
 10. The length of the monitoring period will vary between students and should be determined prior to independent travel commencing but can be extended or terminated depending on how the student is managing.
 11. Parents should be asked to notify the school of any incidents or issues that may have arisen on the journey home and together the school and parents can find a solution.

Attachments

1. Student Competency Checklist
2. Student Problem solving Checklist
3. Student Environmental Risk Assessment Checklist
4. Student Worry checklist
5. Student Travel Task and Competency Sign Off checklist
6. Participate in Travel Education Note
7. Independent Travel Contract.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in...

May 2016