

Advisory Teaching Service

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We can produce this document in Braille, large print, on audio tape and in other languages. If you would like a copy in one of these formats, please call 01452 426955.

Guidance on transport for school trips and journeys, including transport, for students with mobility needs

Information for schools



Advisory Teaching Service

PD Team



Gloucestershire
COUNTY COUNCIL

Funding Avenues

Detailed planning over time between school, parents, students and visit providers is the key to successful school visits for students with a disability. Helpful guidance to support this process is available on Gloucestershire's SchoolsNet.

Log into SchoolsNet

- Click on 'School office'
- Click on 'School visits'
- Click on 'Offsite & educational visit guidance'
- Useful sections include - 1.5: Equalities impact assessment; 5.9: Special educational needs & disabilities; 9: Transport

Funding Avenues

Accessible transport may come at an extra cost; schools have found the following solutions helpful:

- Identifying local charities or bursaries, within or outside school, e.g. PTA, School Trust Funds, Round Table.
- If these sources are not forthcoming and the school trip is to access a mainstream activity or enable a short break for a parent, it may be possible to make an application for Inclusion Grant funding; information available on GCC website.

Arranging Accessible Transport

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It may not be necessary to use accessible transport. The following solutions have been used by Gloucestershire schools to enable successful school visits for students who are wheelchair users:

- Using two minibuses, including one with a tailgate lift, rather than a standard coach.
- A student could use a footbox to assist them stepping onto the bottom coach step.
- Liaison with local taxi providers, particularly if the student has home/school transport - it may be that instead of a journey to school the provider may be able to transport to the trip destination, particularly if it is local.
- Liaison with parents - they, another family member or friend may be able to provide transport via a family's mobility vehicle. Some schools have successfully hired a family's vehicle, but ensure appropriate permission and insurance are in place.
- Using local "Ring and Ride" services, e.g. Stroud Ring and Ride, Gloucester Dial a Ride service, Newent Dial a Ride.
- Using school cluster inclusive transport vehicles, e.g. Forest schools.
- Ensuring replacement school minibus vehicles are suitable for wheelchair users.
- Liaison with the Gloucestershire Minibus Sharing Scheme, a not for profit scheme, which can make accessible minibuses available for schools to hire - www.glosminibusscheme.co.uk
- Ensuring that advice is readily accessible in case of an accident, e.g. individual healthcare plans. If going abroad this may need to be translated.