Transport for London

first bus

Able to Travel

METROPOLITAN POLICE TOTAL POLICING

BARNET LONDON BOROUGH

Independent Travel Training for people with SEND+

We believe everyone has the right to make safe journeys to visit family and friends, to learn, pursue hobbies, enjoy days out and to have access to more job opportunities.

What is Able To Travel?

A one-off, interactive, and fun session designed to help participants build confidence and learn essential skills for travelling safely by bus. Sessions are **free** to attend and take place on a private, moving bus. For an overview, watch: **Able To Travel - Barnet Council, Transport for London, First Bus London & Metropolitan Police Film 2** (3.30)

Through role-play scenarios and group discussions, participants will explore topics such as:

- Tips for travelling safely
- Travel cards, ticket inspectors, and their roles
- Stranger danger
- Safe strangers and asking for help
- Dealing with undesirable passengers
- Road safety – with supervised road crossing



Sessions are led by representatives from Transport for London (TfL), ticket inspectors, Safer Transport Police and Barnet Road Safety.

Who is it for?

Children (aged 10+) and adults of all ages who:

- live, work, study or travel in Barnet or attend a Barnet based support group or are associated with a Barnet based charity
- are independent travellers or working towards independent travel and expected to be independent within the next 6 months

and are any of the following:

- children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- adults with learning and/or physical disabilities
- anyone who may be vulnerable or experiencing high anxiety when travelling

Previous attendees have included people who have ADHD, Autism/ASD, Down syndrome, Global Developmental Delay, hearing impairments, Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD), Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties (SEMH), Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN), visual impairments and wheelchair users.

Children **do not** need to have an official diagnosis or Education, Health and Care Plan to attend. We accept bookings from schools, colleges, charities, community groups, parents/carers and Barnet council referrals.

Where?

We meet at Edgware Bus Station (next to Edgware Tube Station) and board the *Able to Travel* bus, which follows a pre-planned route around Edgware before returning to the station. Participants disembark midway through the session before getting back on the bus. Local parking is available.



When?

Sessions run monthly (most months) on Tuesdays, with two time slots available: 10:15am – 11:50am or 12:15pm – 1:50pm. **Pre-booking is required.**

To request a booking form and check availability, please email: road.safety@barnet.gov.uk

Feedback

Examples of feedback received from participants who attended sessions between November 2025 – June 2026:

"The training was useful overall and provided valuable real-life learning opportunities for students, particularly around public transport use and community awareness. I found the training useful as a staff member, especially in terms of understanding how students respond in real community settings and how to support them with travel safety skills. The trainers communicated clearly and engaged well with the group, providing explanations and guidance throughout the session. I liked that the session included real-life challenges and scenarios. I would recommend this training, particularly for students who are developing independence and travel skills. Overall, the session was well planned and informative. The combination of preparation materials and real-life scenarios made the training meaningful and engaging." *Clarion School Staff member*

"I like The fact that the TFL members/staff were informing us about the dangers of roads, stranger dangers and different types of crossings. I was comfortable with everything. There wasn't anything that I felt uncomfortable about. I love the law of the TFL safety and want to come back to answer more questions and contribute/learn more about road safety and attempt to travel safely and independently."
The Compton, Pupil

"I liked how they taught us scenarios. I learned to be safe and careful. Everything was amazing."
Barnet Hill Academy, Pupil

"It was good to see our students from a different perspective. They all came away learning something. The trainers were all very clear in what they said and how they said it. They all came across as friendly and approachable but still with the authority needed. All our students were able to understand and participate if they chose to. The scenarios were very well done. It really made them aware of the very real situations that could happen to them. It's also good even as an adult to be reminded of just how easy it is to become distracted and find yourself in a tricky situation. Generally every angle was covered. We all really enjoyed it. It was well organised. The staff all seemed like they genuinely cared. Keep up the good work!"
The Compton School Staff Member

"The training is good for me to travel on my own, learning to travel independently, being safe in the bus. To travel independently, being in this session must be helpful and useful for me."
St Agnes School, Pupil

"I just wanted to drop you a line to say thank you to you…and all the wonderful people who lead the workshop yesterday. It was absolutely fantastic, the pupils were raving about all the different people that they met and I have told many of my colleagues about it." *Kisharon Noe School Staff Member*

"Very visual and interactive. We learned something new about how to deal with incidences on a bus. Staff were friendly and attentive. Staff were conscientious of our deaf students' needs, placing them in the appropriate seating and wearing a radio aid, so our students could have a better access." *Hendon staff Staff Member*

"It is highly beneficial for trainees as it fosters independence, boosts self confidence, and provides essential life skills for navigating the community safely. The training was taught by professionals who work in transportation and other officers. They tried to deliver the importance of training in a friendly manner and more approachable way. The session was delivered perfectly well." *St Agnes School Staff Member*

"The training was extremely useful for my pupils. I too learnt things I was not aware of! Communication was clear, concise, and accessible to all my students. The training was adapted for the needs of my pupils. Language was clear and simple and time was allowed for pupils to process questions and then answer. The session had a lot of variety which meant that the students didn't stay doing one thing for too long, so remained engaged. We liked the different elements that came together, with the different roles of the individuals. I already have recommended, to my colleagues in other schools. Thank you for a highly informative session. We enjoyed it too!"
Kisharon Noe School Staff Member

"I liked how people acted out the scenarios for us and we learnt a lot through that. I learnt about travelling in the bus and being safe on roads." *Barnet Hill Academy, Pupil*

"It was a very educational trip and important for keeping the children safe. Impressed by how friendly and clearly everybody spoke. I would definitely recommend this training to others." *Mapledown School Staff Member*