

Independent Travel Training

Riverside has an accredited Independent Travel Trainer, Simon Pollard, who works with selected students to build on their ability to become totally independent.

This is a painstaking task as they have such individual needs. From when they come to the school at 11 years old, they have often not had freedom to go anywhere due to anxieties held by parents and often the student themselves.

The Trainer dedicates a lot of time on the basic skills, building up a confidence in them and their families to progress on to the next level.

He uses many methods of teaching, they investigate, use role play and practice all aspects of the travel they are learning about.

The school has a Holistic Learning scheme where the achievements are discussed twice a year with teachers and parents, students and other involved agencies: this independent travel and the cycle training are noted as having a very positive effect on the student's behaviour, confidence and ability to concentrate in other subjects. The reward system works well, they are inspired to achieve by observing and being part of other students' success.

One student has recently progressed from being brought to school by LA transport with an accompanying escort to being able to travel from his home in Muswell Hill to school and return home independently. This is not an easy journey as he has to get 3 different buses each way and cross a busy junction on Muswell Hill Broadway.

To promote and celebrate this student's achievement a presentation for a whole school assembly was created by Simon in the form of a quiz, such that the student was asked questions relating to his journey to school and his answers were checked by the students in assembly.

Everyone joined in with celebrating and learning about this student's personal achievement.

Simon Pollard





Headteacher Martin Doyle BA (Hons), Adv.Dip.Ed.

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Date.....

Dear Parent/Carer,
Independent Travel Training

I have been asked to provide **Independent Travel Training** for your child to help them develop their road safety and independence skills. I take two or at the most three students out for one travel training session a week and aim to gradually build up a student's confidence and experience of being out in public. The training will include:

- Supervised journeys in the local area to familiarise students with a general understanding of road safety and using the Green Cross Code and pedestrian crossings in different environments.
- Supervised journeys on public transport in the local area to build up a student's confidence and understanding of how to travel and keep safe on London buses.
- Supervised journeys to/from home and school to familiarise the student with their route.
- Finding the safest route to school from home.
- Keeping safe when in public.

I keep the class teacher fully informed of a student's progress throughout and I will regularly update you of your child's progress. Only when a student can demonstrate that they can travel home safely and independently will I seek your consent for your child to travel on their own. If you have any queries, then please do not hesitate to contact Sarah or me at the school.

Kindest regards
Simon Pollard
Riverside School Road Safety Trainer

Riverside School Independent Travel Training
Please return to school for the attention of Simon.

Name of Student.....

I do / do not give consent for my child to receive **Independent Travel Training** at school.
Yes / No my child has / hasn't a student Oyster photocard

Parent/Carer signature.....

Name of Parent/carer



Below is a series of slides used in a presentation when a student became an independent traveller

Matthew's journey to school.



What number bus do you get from Highgate?



Bus 43 or 134



Muswell Hill

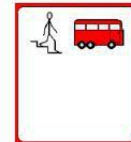


What is the bus you get from Muswell Hill?

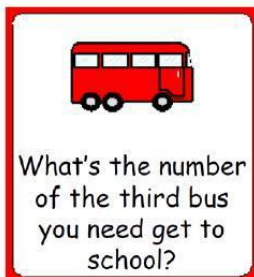


Bus 144

Where do you get off the 144 bus?



White Hart Lane bus stop on Great Cambridge Road.



W3 bus

New River Sports Centre stop

→
to..



Who can you ask for help and what can you show if the bus is diverted and goes to a different place?

The bus driver and show the driver your Travel Support Card.



Well done and congratulations on becoming an Independent Traveller .

