

Top Tips to get started on your public transport journey

Start Small:

Teachers will want to build their confidence around taking students on public transport. Start with a short trip with a small group of students. A short trip requires less route planning and less navigation when on the journey. Shorter trips also require less physical journeying time.

Get the students:

Some may use it every day. No matter what levels your students are at, helping them learn how to use public transport will help them feel confident when coming on the trip. Free, tried and tested resources are available from the West Midlands Combined Authority for Key Stage 2-5. These resources are to help increase confidence when travelling on public transport. Get access to these resources here (Please ensure <https://wmca.assetbank-server.com> is on your approved/white list to avoid issues when downloading content):
<https://wmca.assetbank-server.com/assetbank-wmca/action/browseItems?categoryId=236&categoryTypeId=2>

Prepare to split up:

Taking more than 30 children on public transport for the same trip can cause issues around space on the bus/train. If using buses, consider staggering large groups. For trains and trams, spread your group across the platform, and aim to take smaller groups into separate carriages. For buses, spread your group across 3 buses consecutively. This will make it easier for your students to sit down and enjoy their journey and make it more comfortable for other passengers. Set up a meeting point at your destination when all groups can meet up together again.

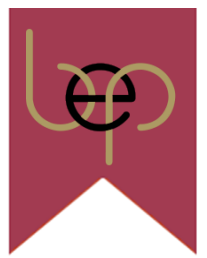
Travel at the best time:

After 9:30, the rush hour is over and public transport is quieter. This reduces the concern over space available on public transport, less members of the public to deal with and more chance of support from the public transport operators.

Make the journey part of the trip:

Using public transport does not just involve the travel. It allows student a chance to interact with their environment and the people around them. They will see parts of Birmingham they may have not seen before. Why not set them small tasks and challenges on their journey to keep them engaged and actively involved in developing their life skills.

Public Transport Opens Up Your Curriculum



Why use public transport?

When planning a school trip organising a coach is often the preferred option. It arrives at your schools, picks up your students, and drops them at the destination with limited fuss.

But, have you missed a brilliant education opportunity for your students, and paid the price for it?

Birmingham has an extensive transport network including buses, trains and trams that can be used to open up your curriculum for a fraction of the cost of hiring a coach. (see how much inside!)

10 Benefits for students:

1. Builds essential life skills, including safe decision making
2. Increases mobility
3. Builds confidence to travel using public transport
4. Encourages healthier habits, such as walking
5. Strengthens independence to problem solve
6. Stimulates cognitive development by interacting with the built environment
7. Learning about what their city has to offer them
8. Builds appreciation of community resources
9. Opportunity to interact with a diverse range of people, building greater social awareness
10. Decreases CO2 footprint

5 Benefits for schools

1. Public transport provides a **value for money** option
2. Allow you to **use more of what Birmingham** has to offer
3. Helps to make your **curriculum relevant & engaging** including contributing to your **Gatsby Benchmarks**
4. Builds **essential skills, qualities & knowledge** in readiness for work life and life in general
5. Contributes positively to climate and pollution concerns

How do you begin using public transport

At such an affordable price, public transport can open up a world of opportunities for your curriculum. Birmingham has a wealth of cultural, historical, geographical and religious sites that your pupils can use to experience and deeply engage with your curriculum.

To get started you need to plan your journey. Transport companies such as Transport for West Midlands are more than happy to provide you with more in depth journey planning for your trip, but to research the basics yourself such as journey times, take a look at the following free resources:

Citymapper can be used on your computer or as an app on your phone. Input your school and your destination and it will tell you every possible way to get there, giving you routes on buses, trains and trams. It also provides details of your journey such as, how long your journey will take, including walking time, and any changes on your route. This is a simple and user-friendly tool to plan your trip. Students can even download it to help plan the journey and/or follow the journey in real-time. Any delays or issues, the app will help you re-route and continue your trip. Head to: <https://citymapper.com/cities> and try it out today

Google Maps is also a great journey planning tool. Unlike City Mapper, Google Maps works outside of Birmingham. It can also be used on the computer or phone as an app. The benefit of google, is you can research places and areas you wish to go in Birmingham. Once you have found a location, Google can show you the 'Directions' to your chosen destination. You can then select if you wish to go by coach/car, public transport or walk. It will then tell you how long the journey will take by your chosen method. If you select public transport it will also give you details of how to get to your destination with the public transport available including buses, trains, trams and walking.

Class Pass

Class Pass is a West Midlands wide ticket option only available to schools, that makes travel more affordable.

Take a class of 30 children and 6 adults on unlimited all-day travel for just £69 maximum!



Transport for West Midlands: at £23 per Class Pass, this ticket allows for travel on trains, trams and all buses. These tickets can be purchased online from the Transport for West Midlands website. You can also speak to Network West Midlands to discuss your trip, including details around route planning or logistics. To book your tickets or speak to them, follow the link: <https://www.networkwestmidlands.com/information-for/teaching-professionals/class-pass-travel-ticket/>



National Express: National Express have a 'Class Pass' for their buses only, which serves the majority of bus routes in Birmingham. These passes must be purchased in units of three at a time and will cost you £59. The three passes can either be used together, or separately. The pass can be purchased via the [National Express website](#), or in the National Express ticket office. To find out more or to book your tickets head to: <https://nxbus.co.uk/west-midlands/miscellaneous/school-trips-made-easy-with-class-pass>