

What is a Family Led travel budget?

A Family Led Travel Budget (FLTB) is a payment provided to parents or carers to facilitate any arrangements for home to school travel in order to ensure attendance and access to education. It allows families to make flexible arrangements and monitor the quality of transport directly.

How can a FLTB be used?

It is for the parent or carer to determine how the FLTB payment should be used effectively to ensure access and attendance at school. The benefits of a FLTB are that it enables freedom and flexibility to make travel arrangements that best meet the family's needs and circumstances. Payment could for example be used to:

- facilitate costs of running the family car
- arrange for family or friends to assist with the home to school travel
- facilitate childcare payments for other siblings during transport periods

Who is eligible for a FLTB?

In order to access a FLTB there are a number of eligibility criteria that must be met:

- child must have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
- child must qualify for home to school travel under the Home to School Travel eligibility criteria

If a child meets the eligibility criteria the local authority will then consider if it is cost effective to provide a FLTB for home to school travel. It may be that a FLTB is not cost effective for the local authority and in such cases home to school travel would be offered via an alternative means.

What value is a FLTB?

The amount of money awarded for a FLTB is based on the shortest walking distance between the home address and the school attended. The following table outlines the payment bands dependent on the distance:

| Band | Distance | Amount |
|------|--------------------|--------|
| 1 | Less than 5 miles | £2,000 |
| 2 | 5-10 Miles | £3,000 |
| 3 | More than 10 miles | £5,000 |

The payment is spread equally over 11 monthly instalments; September to July. If a child accesses a FLTB part way through the academic year the payment will be adjusted accordingly.

Where the Panel identifies that a child needs to be accompanied to and from school, the distance will be calculated to include the return journey.

How often does a FLTB get reviewed?

At the end of each school year a further assessment will be carried out to identify if a FLTB is required or if not. As children grow older, it is likely they will wish to become independent travellers. Independent travel is an important life skill and can help children to access social and employment opportunities.

How can I be considered for a FLTB?

An application will need to be made to the Transport Exceptions and Appeals (TEA) Panel will decide if it is appropriate.