

## MOBILITY INFORMATION

### ACCESS TO SEATING IN VEHICLES FOR A VISUALLY IMPAIRED CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON

- Offer child/young person Sighted Guide to the vehicle.
- Inform the student which way the car is facing and whether it is a front or rear door they need to locate.
- For consistency (and to further independence) the car, when possible, should always be parked in the same place so that the student learns independently to locate the car and door handle. Ideally the student should have their long cane so that it locates obstacles in the pathway as well as detect the car.
- The person sight guiding should place their hand on car door handle and the student should slide their hand down until they locate the car door handle. Alternatively, the student could trail along the car until it is located. If they are able, the student should then open the car door themselves. The student may wish to put their free hand on the top corner of the door.
- From this position the child/young person can reach across and locate the roof. Their hand should ideally remain in contact with the roof until their head is inside the car, thus protecting them from any bumps. It is generally easier to sit first and then swing legs in. Ensure that the seat is free of any items. **Never** push the person into a seat.
- The cane can be either folded and stored away or propped up against the shoulder nearest the door.
- On exiting the car, the cane goes first and thus used to locate the kerb.
- Before opening the door, the student should check verbally as to whether there are any obstacles. They should lean forward slightly, swinging their legs out first. They may want to use their hand to clear the roof.

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