

## Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme (MiDAS) training

Minibus awareness training is becoming the industry standard qualification for passenger transport drivers.

Whilst it is not yet a mandatory requirement for operators, drivers are not able to drive accessible vehicles belonging to other organisations unless they have received training in the skills associated with using such minibuses.

MiDAS training is highly recommended for all new drivers as it offers:

- Enhanced passenger safety
- Improved passenger comfort
- Increased driver confidence
- Reduced stress on the minibus driver
- A better image for your organisation

The Little Red Bus MiDAS training course is delivered by full time MiDAS driver assessors.

### How MiDAS works

After completing the registration process at which licences are checked and a basic eyesight test is completed, the course involves:

- Driving practice and tuition – this will normally last for approximately one hour and will include the opportunity for the trainee to drive the vehicle under supervision, in order to receive on-road vehicle familiarisation
- A classroom based training session of approximately two hours in our training room \*
- Driver assessment against MiDAS standards

After a successful assessment trainees will be given further basic training by their DAT in the skills and information you need when driving minibuses.

\* If required, additional training for an accessible vehicle (one which carries passengers who use wheelchairs) is available.

On successful completion of the MiDAS training, trainees receive a certificate which enables them to drive the minibuses of other MiDAS members without the need for re-assessment (although a familiarisation session and checks for insurance compliance will still be necessary).


### First Aid training

First Aid training is available in either our training centre or in-house for both individuals and small groups.

Our course is accredited by St. John's Ambulance.

If you would like this leaflet in large print or an alternative format, please call 01423 526655.



 Futurebuilders England helping voluntary and community organisations deliver better public services



#### Little Red Bus Training Unit

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Little Red Bus is a not for profit community transport organisation working to identify and provide flexible and affordable transport solutions.



## Passenger Transport Driver Training Services

- Minibus Driving Test School (D1 Licences)
- Coach Driving Test School (PCV Licences)
- MiDAS Training Centre

## Little Red Bus driver training

The Little Red Bus Driver Training Agency is an arm of the Little Red Bus Integrated Transport Network that operates across North Yorkshire.

We are dedicated to meeting the needs of passenger transport operators, minibus drivers and escorts in the voluntary, public service and commercial sectors.

### Our quality assured training services:

- Are based in purpose built premises with ample parking on the outskirts of Harrogate
- Employ a team of experienced and well qualified trainers. All trainers will have:
  - held a D or D1 driving licence, obtained by test, for at least three years
  - relevant experience of training drivers, by being a qualified MiDAS Driver Assessor Trainer (DAT) or an Approved Driving Instructor (ADI)
- Use a fleet of modern, fully accessible passenger transport vehicles, from short wheel based minibuses to a 55-seater tourist coach

*Our service is distinguished by our public service focus, our friendly approach and our record of success across all levels of driver and escort training.*

### Courses provided include:

- Minibus driver D1 test courses
- PCV driver training courses
- Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme (MiDAS) training
- First Aid training
- Manual handling
- Disability awareness

## Who needs the minibus driver D1 test?

Before 1997 all car drivers were able to drive 'not for profit' minibuses. In 1997 revised driver licensing legislation was introduced making the D1 driving test compulsory for any driver wishing to drive a minibus if:

- They passed their driving test after 31 December 1996
- They will receive payment for driving the minibus
- They are employed by a school or college and driving the minibus is part of their job

The test is also compulsory if:

- The minibus has a gross vehicle weight over 3,500kg (but 4,250kg if it is wheelchair accessible)
- The minibus is used to tow a trailer

Little Red Bus has a comprehensive package designed to enable non-professional drivers (teachers, volunteers, local authority care home staff, college tutors etc) to obtain ROSPA and CTA accredited qualifications to drive minibuses.

*For further information on the driver D1 courses, including course outline, costs and a timetable, please visit [www.littleredbus.co.uk](http://www.littleredbus.co.uk), call our training team on 01423 724557 or email [training@littleredbus.co.uk](mailto:training@littleredbus.co.uk).*

Note: We are able to supply the necessary driving licence application forms and are now able to offer medicals through the Little Red Bus GP.



## PCV driver training

Little Red Bus offers many services designed for anyone who wishes to become a professional bus driver or coach driver. We have a 2006, 55-seater, fully accessible coach available for all training purposes which can carry up to six wheelchairs.

Following a preliminary assessment session, a programme of lessons are arranged at times to suit, and PCV tests are scheduled accordingly.

*For further information on the PCV course programme please call our training team on 01423 724557 or email [training@littleredbus.co.uk](mailto:training@littleredbus.co.uk).*

