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Safety Belt Procedure

The following table is a summary of the rules that apply to the wearing of seatbelts.

All children under the age of 12 have to use some form of car seat, unless they are taller than 135 cm (4ft 5in).

Person	Front Seat	Rear Seat	Who is Responsible
Driver	Belt must be worn	N/A	Driver
Adult Passenger (over 12 years)	Belt must be worn	Belt must be worn	Passenger
Child (under 3 years)	Child restraint must be worn	Child restraint must be worn	Driver
Child (3-11 years) Unless over 135cm tall	Child restraint must be worn	Child restraint must be worn	Driver
Child (12-13 years) Or over 135 cm tall	Belt must be worn	Belt must be worn	Driver

Exceptions

Exceptions to these rules are:

- Short and occasional journeys made for reasons of 'unexpected necessity' (so not on regular school runs, but you don't need to worry if you are picking up a friend's child because he/she has been detained at work)
- Where two other children are already using restraints in the back seat, leaving no room for a third (however, it would often be safer for the child to travel, in the front of the car, using the appropriate seat or cushion.)
- In a licensed taxi or licensed private hire vehicle.
- In older vehicles with no rear seatbelts though the department for transport points out that this is 'not safe'
- Emergency vehicles, including ambulances and police cars are exempt.

A child restraint is a baby carrier, child seat, harness or booster seat appropriate to the child's weight. There are four groups of restraints designed for children of different weights, these are:

Group 0 and Group 0+

These are baby seats – rear facing and for children up to 10kg and up to 13kg respectively and aged approximately from birth to 9-12 months.

Group 1

Forward and rearward facing child seats for children weighing 9kg to 18kg and aged approximately 9months to 4 years

Group 2

Booster seats designed for children from 15kg to 25kg and up to 36kg and aged approximately 4 to 6 years and over, these may or may not have backs.

Group 3

Booster cushions, for children from 22kg and up to 36kg and aged from approximately 6 years, these generally do not have backs sometimes they start at 15kg

In addition:

- It is illegal to use a rear facing baby seat in a front seat protected by a airbag
- Children under 12 and less than 135cm tall may not travel in the front of a car without an appropriate seat or cushion, under any circumstances
- Children under three may not travel without an appropriate seat, whether they are in the front or the back, except when in the rear of a taxi.

As a matter of common sense, traffic regulations allow that the following persons need not wear seatbelts:

- Drivers of delivery vans while undertaking deliveries or collections (if vehicle travels less than 50 meters between stops)
- Drivers of taxis and private hire vehicles while undertaking deliveries or collections if the vehicle travels less than 50 metres between stops.
- Drivers of prisoner escorts and fire engines
- A qualified driver who is supervising a reversing learner.
- Drivers making a reversing mauves
- Drivers who cannot wear a seatbelt for medical reasons (a medical certificate will be needed)

Minibuses and coaches

All minibuses regardless of age must have forward facing seats for each child (up to 15 years) carried on a organised trip fitted with lap seatbelts

When travelling by coach all passengers under the age of 14 MUST wear seatbelts

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