



SOUTH DARLEY C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

CHILD CAR SEAT POLICY

Person/Committee responsible for reviewing/updating this plan	Resources	
Policy Number	PN396	
Date First Issued	22.01.18	
Date of Next Review	Term 3 2026	

Date of Review	Governors Meeting Reference Number	Approved by name	Comments
22.01.18	PHSSC22012018.7.2	P Siddall	
21.03.22	RSC21032022.15.3	R Barton	

Child Car Seats

There are two key groups within the in car safety guidance that are most significant in impacting on child in car safety and the reduction in casualties

- a. Public service workers who are involved in all aspects of child care and transporting other people's children
- b. Professional dealing with children with special needs

This guidance is aimed at South Darley CE Primary School staff and volunteer drivers who transport children in their cars as part of their employment/volunteering. For the purposes of this guidance "Child Restraint" is the collective term for the following: "baby seats", "child seats", "booster seats" and "booster cushions"

The law requires that ALL children travelling in the front and rear seat of any car, van or goods vehicle must use the correct child restraint until they are either 135cm in height or 12 years of age, whichever they reach first. After this they must use an adult seatbelt. It is the driver responsibility to ensure that children under the age of 14 years are restrained correctly in accordance with the law.

Since 1st March 2017, under new regulations manufacturers are no longer permitted to introduce new models of backless booster seats (booster cushions) for children shorter than 125cm or weighing less than 22kg. Although the new regulation doesn't mean that existing seats and cushions are 'unsafe or illegal', under good practice high back booster seats will only be used to transport children.

Exemptions:

There are a few exceptions which allow children 3–12 years or up to 135cms in height to travel in the rear and use an adult belt, are as follows:-

- in a licensed taxi/private hire vehicle, if the right child restraint is not available; or
- for an occasional journey over a short distance for reasons of unexpected necessity, if the right child restraint is not available; or
- Where two occupied child seats in the rear prevent the fitment of a third child seat.

Children under 3 may travel in the rear of a taxi unrestrained if no child restraint is available. If the appropriate child restraint is not available, and the journey is not an exempt journey, as above, then the child must not travel.

All child restraints seats must be R44.04 compliant. Whilst R44.03 seats are legal under good practice the authority will always use seats that comply with the most current standard. Under good practice the authority will not use seats which are older than six years old.

Any staff who transport young people who require a child restraint must establish which is the most appropriate child restraint for that young person and must ensure this is correctly fitted before any journey in a car takes place. The child restraint must always be fitted in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. If in any doubt or you are unable to fit the seat correctly, always stop and ask for assistance, never assume that the seat will be fine and that a collision will not occur

It is the responsibility of the driver to ensure this and to ensure the seatbelt or integral harness in child and baby seats, is worn at all times.

The school will always follow good practice guidelines for choosing the appropriate seat for the child being transported.