

Travelling to school by car

Buckle-up front and back

New national child restraint laws for 0–7 year olds now apply. Find the right child restraint for your child:

- 0–6 months Approved rearward facing restraint.
- 6 months – 4 years Approved rearward or forward-facing restraint.
- 4–7 years Approved forward-facing restraint or booster seat.

Make a rule that every child passenger must be securely buckled into a seatbelt or child restraint before you start the car.

- A sleeping child must remain firmly buckled up while the car is in motion.
- Reward your child with lots of praise for good road safety behaviour.
- Assist your young child to buckle up – always check the buckle.
- There are penalties for a driver not wearing a seatbelt and for driving with an unrestrained passenger.

Teach your child to use the 'safety door'

Teach your children to get in and out of the car by the 'safety door.' The rear kerb side door of the car is the 'safety door'.

- Never allow children to get out of the car on the traffic side.
- When possible, children should remain in the car until an adult opens the 'safety door'. This helps ensure that children get out of the car safely.
- Children aged four years to under seven years must be secured in a forward facing child restraint or booster seat.
- Children aged four years to under seven years cannot travel in the front seat of a vehicle with two or more rows, unless all other back seats are occupied by children younger than seven years in a child restraint or booster seat.

- A child that is properly secured in an approved child restraint is less likely to be killed or injured in a car crash than one who is not.

