



### The regulations state that:

- ✓ All children **under 3yrs** must use the correct child seat when travelling in any car\* (except in the rear of a taxi if a child seat is not available).
- ✓ Children aged **3yrs - 12yrs** must use the correct child seat/booster cushion when travelling in cars\* until they reach 135cms (4' 5") in height.
- ✓ Taller children and all those aged 12 and over need to use adult belts.
- ✓ Rear-facing baby seats must not be used in seats with an *active* frontal air bag (most can be switched off temporarily by a special override switch).

The seat belt should fit over the child's pelvis (not stomach), chest and shoulder (not neck) and be worn as tight as possible.

If the correct child seat or booster is not used, the adult belt will fit too high over the stomach - in a crash there is a **risk of damage to internal organs**, as well as a danger that a child could **slide under the belt**, severely injuring not only the child in any collision but also other occupants of the car as they are thrown around inside.

You can choose a child car seat based on your child's height or weight.

**Height-based seats** are known as 'i-Size' seats. They must be rear-facing until your child is over 15 months old after which your child can use a forward-facing child car seat. You must check the seat to make sure it's suitable for the height of your child.

**Weight-based seats.** The seat your child can use (and the way they must be restrained in it) depends on their weight and you may be able to choose from more than one type of seat in the group for your child's weight.

*See the chart on the back of this sheet for details.*

**Fitting a seat.** You must only use a child car seat if your car's seat belt has a diagonal strap, unless the seat is specifically designed for use with a lap seat belt (some group 1 seats) or fitted using ISOFIX anchor points. You must deactivate any front airbags before fitting a rear-facing baby seat in a front passenger seat and you cannot fit a child car seat in side-facing seats.



### Children with disabilities or medical conditions

must follow the same rules, but they can use a disabled person's seat belt or a child restraint designed for their needs. A doctor can issue an exemption certificate if a child is unable to use a restraint or seat belt because of their condition.



If the driver of a **Taxi** or **Private Hire Vehicle** (minicab) doesn't provide the correct child car seat children can travel without one - but only if they travel on a rear seat and wear an adult seat belt if they're **3yrs+**, or without a seat belt if they're **under 3yrs**. **It goes without saying this risks serious injury to the child in the event of a collision so should be avoided.**



**Unexpected Journeys.** If the correct child car seat isn't available, a child aged **3yrs+** can use an adult seat belt if the journey is **unexpected and necessary and over a short distance**. You can't take children **under 3** on an unexpected journey in a vehicle without the correct child car seat, unless it's a **licensed taxi or minicab and** the child travels on a **rear seat without a seat belt**



The penalty for not using a suitable child restraint is either a £50 fine, or £100 and 3 points depending on the circumstances. If the case goes to court the maximum fine can be up to £2,500 (£5,000 for goods vehicles and minibuses).

If we feel there are other risks involved or potentially vulnerable children we will make a referral to Social Services (in rare and exceptional circumstances where we feel a child is at direct risk we may even take the child into immediate Police Protection)

\* The regulations apply to all goods vehicles as well as cars - from small vans to larger trucks.

The seat belt in the example here (which wasn't worn anyway) would have gone across the child's face or neck.



See the back of this page for the weight/size chart and also some more exceptions/exemptions



**We are unable to recommend any particular brand or model of car seat - most shops selling car seats will be happy to offer advice and often fit them into your car free of charge for you after purchase.**



**Minibus** and **Coach** drivers and companies don't have to provide child car seats, you must provide your own if you want to make sure a child has one.

Children can travel in Coaches without a child car seat or seat belt if they're not available.


In Minibuses all children must travel in rear seats (any seats behind the driver) if a child car seat or an adult seat belt isn't fitted.

Children aged **3yrs+** must use a child car seat if there's one available in a minibus or use an adult seat belt if child car seats are not fitted or are unsuitable.

### No room for a third child car seat?

Children under 3 must be in a child car seat. If there's no room for a third child car seat in the back of the vehicle, the child must travel in the front seat with the correct child car seat.

Children aged 3 or older can sit in the back using an adult belt.

 In February 2017 the rules for the manufacture of car seats changed meaning manufacturers aren't allowed to introduce *new* models of backless booster seats for children shorter than 125cm or weighing less than 22kg. Existing seats are still safe legal and unaffected.

Manufacturers can now only make booster cushions approved as group 3 (see the back of this sheet). This won't affect any existing booster cushions in group 2 and you'll still be able to use them. Only EU approved height-based child car seats can be used in the UK. These have a label showing a capital 'E' in a circle and 'R129'.

<b>Weight</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Seats</b>
> 10Kg <i>approx. 1.5 stone</i>	0	<i>Lie-flat or 'lateral' baby carrier, rear-facing baby carrier, or rear-facing baby seat using a harness</i>
> 13Kg <i>approx. 2 stone</i>	0+	<i>Rear-facing baby carrier or rear-facing baby seat using a harness</i>
9 - 18Kg <i>approx. 1.4-2.8 stone</i>	1	<i>Rear- or forward-facing baby seat using a harness or safety shield</i>
15 - 25Kg <i>approx. 2.3-4 stone</i>	2	<i>Rear- or forward-facing child car seat (high-backed booster seat or booster cushion) using a seat belt, harness or safety shield</i>
22 - 36Kg <i>approx. 3.5-5.6 stone</i>	3	<i>Rear- or forward-facing child car seat (high-backed booster seat or booster cushion) using a seat belt, harness or safety shield</i>

 For more information search online where you will find lots of guidance and videos, such as:

- ✓ [www.childcarseats.org.uk](http://www.childcarseats.org.uk) (ROSPA)
- ✓ [www.gov.uk/child-car-seats-the-rules](http://www.gov.uk/child-car-seats-the-rules)
- ✓ [www.nhs.uk/conditions/pregnancy-and-baby/child-car-seats-and-child-car-safety/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/pregnancy-and-baby/child-car-seats-and-child-car-safety/)
- ✓ [www.capt.org.uk/car-safety](http://www.capt.org.uk/car-safety)

