



ST JAMES CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, HEBBURN

16th December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Child car seats: the law

A reminder that the law requires all children travelling in the front or rear seat of any car, van or goods vehicle must use the correct child car seat **until they are either 135cm in height or 12 years old (whichever they reach first)**. After this they must use an adult seat belt. **There are very few exceptions.**

Height-based seats

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

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'.

Weight-based seats

The seat your child can use (and the way they must be restrained in it) depends on their weight. Only EU-approved weight-based child car seats can be used in the UK. These have a label showing a capital 'E' in a circle and 'ECE R44'.

You may be able to choose from more than one type of seat in the group for your child's weight.

Group	Seats
0kg to 10kg	0 Lie-flat or 'lateral' baby carrier, rear-facing baby carrier, or rear-facing baby seat using a harness
0kg to 13kg	0+ Rear-facing baby carrier or rear-facing baby seat using a harness
9kg to 18kg	1 Rear- or forward-facing baby seat using a harness or safety shield
15kg to 25kg	2 Rear- or forward-facing child car seat (high-backed booster seat or booster cushion) using a seat belt, harness or safety shield

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Group	Seats
22kg to 36kg	3 Rear- or forward-facing child car seat (high-backed booster seat or booster cushion) using a seat belt, harness or safety shield

*Manufacturers can now only make booster cushions approved as group 3. This won't affect any existing booster cushions in group 2 and you'll still be able to use them.

It is very important that everyone follows the above guidance to ensure that they are complying with the law on how children should be carried in cars.

If you need any support in ensuring that you can provide the correct car seat for their child please call into the school office and we will be happy to chat with you.

Yours sincerely,

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