



# Child Car Seats



[www.rospa.com](http://www.rospa.com)

[www.childcarseats.org.uk](http://www.childcarseats.org.uk)

[www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk](http://www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk)

## The New Law From September 18<sup>th</sup> 2006

There will be a number of important changes to the law about the use of child seats in cars and goods vehicles on the **18th of September**, this fact sheet will help you understand what they are.

You can find more information about which types of child car seat are suitable, and how to make sure that you are getting the safest restraint available on RoSPA's child car seat website – [www.childcarseats.org.uk](http://www.childcarseats.org.uk)

### Summary Table

	Front seat	Rear seat	Who is responsible?
<b>Driver</b>	Seat belt <b>MUST</b> be worn if available.		Driver
<b>Child up to 3 years</b>	Correct child restraint <b>MUST</b> be used.	Correct child restraint <b>MUST</b> be used  If one is not available in a taxi, then the child may travel unrestrained	Driver
<b>Child from 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday, up to either 135cms in height or 12 years old</b>	Correct child restraint <b>MUST</b> be used	Where seat belts fitted, correct child restraint <b>MUST</b> be used  <b>MUST</b> use adult belt if the correct child restraint is not available in three scenarios: - in a taxi; - over a short distance for reason of unexpected necessity; - two occupied child restraints prevent fitment of a third.  In addition, a child 3 and over may travel unrestrained in the rear seat of a vehicle if seat belts are not available	Driver
<b>Child over 1.35 metres, or 12 to 13 years</b>	Seat belt <b>MUST</b> be worn if available	Seat belt <b>MUST</b> be worn if available	Driver
<b>Adult passengers (ie 14 years and over)</b>	Seat belt <b>MUST</b> be worn if available	Seat belt <b>MUST</b> be worn if available	Passenger

## The New Law for Children up to 3 years old

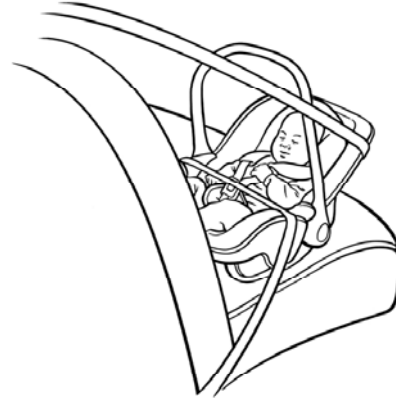
### In the Front Seat

The child **MUST** use the correct child restraint.

### In the Rear Seat

The child **MUST** use the correct child restraint.

In a taxi, if a child restraint is not available then the child may travel unrestrained in the rear. This is the only exemption, and has been introduced for practical rather than safety reasons. You should always think about ways to make sure that a child seat is available.



**It is the driver's legal responsibility to ensure that the child is correctly restrained.**

## The New Law for Children over 3 and up to 1.35m in height, or the age of 12



### In the Front Seat

The child **MUST** use the correct child restraint.

### In the Rear Seat

The child **MUST** use the correct restraint, where seat belts are fitted.

There are three exemptions, where a child in this category does not have to use a child restraint. In each case the child **MUST** use the adult belt instead. They are -

- 1) in a taxi;
- 2) if the child is travelling on a short distance for reason of unexpected necessity;
- 3) if there are two occupied child restraints in the rear which prevent the fitment of a third.

In addition, a child 3 and over may travel unrestrained in the rear seat of a vehicle if seat belts are not available.

**It is the driver's legal responsibility to ensure that the child is correctly restrained.**



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## The New Law for Children over 1.35m in height, or who are 12 or 13 years old



### In the Front Seat

The adult seat belt **MUST** be worn if available.

### In the Rear Seat

The adult seat belt **MUST** be worn if available.

**It is the driver's legal responsibility to ensure that the child is correctly restrained.**

## Other New Changes to the Law from September

### Rear-ward Facing Child Seats

It will become illegal to use a rear-ward facing child restraint in a vehicle seat which is protected by a front airbag.

### Buses, Coaches, and Minibuses

Seated passengers aged 14 years and over **MUST** use seat belts where they are fitted.

