




# Travelling **safely** with children

Make sure every car journey is a happy one with our top 10 tips for parents/carers.

**All children must travel in a car seat until they are 135cm or 12 years old – whichever comes first.**

- 1 Children love to sit in the front passenger seat, but sitting in the back is safer. If this is not possible, sit the eldest child in the front, ensuring their car seat makes good contact with the vehicle upholstery and the front seat is pushed as far back as possible.
- 2 Backless booster seats or booster cushions might seem an easier choice, but seats with high backs offer protection for your child's neck and back and will help keep them in place if they fall asleep on your journey.
- 3 Damage is not always visible. Always replace your child's seat if your car was involved in a collision. All seats have a recommended maximum life span, check the instruction manual for details.
- 4 Kids are messy! Most seats have removable covers which may be washed in the washing machine. It's a good idea to take a photo on your phone before you remove the covers to avoid confusion when replacing them!
- 5 Never be tempted to clean the harness straps with anything other than warm, mild soapy water. Anti-bacterial sprays, bleach and even baby wipes can damage or coat the webbing straps, leaving them ineffective in a collision.
- 6 Thick winter clothing prevents harness straps from fitting close to your child's body. On a cold day, place a removable blanket over your child instead until the vehicle warms up.

 [derbyshireconstabulary](https://www.facebook.com/derbyshireconstabulary) |  [@DerbysPolice](https://twitter.com/DerbysPolice) | [www.derbyshire.police.uk](http://www.derbyshire.police.uk)  
 101 non-emergency, in an emergency always call 999

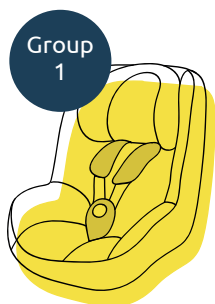


| Making Derbyshire Safer **Together**

- 7 If your child travels in a high-backed booster seat, remember to fasten the belt around the seat when the child gets out to prevent it becoming a missile if the car stops suddenly. Remember to store heavy bags etc in the boot to prevent injuries if your car stops suddenly.
- 8 Is your child like Houdini? If your child can slip the straps off their shoulders, the straps and headrest may need raising. Do the pinch test – if you can pinch the harness straps together, the straps are too slack and need to be tightened up. Check the height of your child regularly to make sure the straps and head hugger still sit in the correct positions. Harness straps should sit on or just below the shoulders if your child sits rearward. If your child faces forward, their straps should sit on or just above their shoulders.
- 9 Avoid buying second-hand car seats unless it's from friends or family, as you won't know the history of the seat and it is unlikely to have the instruction manual with it.
- 10 Purchase your seat from a reputable seat retailer who will advise which seats suit your needs, are compatible with your vehicle and allow you to try the seat in your car before you buy it.



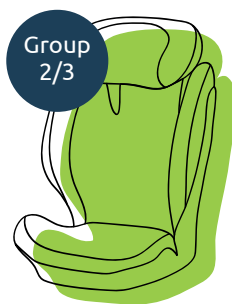
**Group 0+**  
0-13kg  
from birth to  
12-15months



**Group 1**  
9-18kg  
from 9 months  
to 4 years



**Group 1/2/3**  
9-36kg  
from 9 months  
to 12 years



**Group 2/3**  
15-36kg  
from 3 years  
to 12 years

If your child has any disabilities, they may need a specially designed seat.

It is illegal to carry a child in a rearward-facing child seat in the front if there is an active front passenger airbag. The airbag must be deactivated or the rearward-facing child seat must be placed in the rear.

It is the driver's responsibility to ensure that children under the age of 14 years are restrained correctly in accordance with the law.

You may face a fine up to £500 if you are found travelling with your child using a seat which is incorrect for their age, height and weight.

More fitting tips and advice can be found at [www.derbyshire.gov.uk](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk) and [www.childcarseats.org.uk](http://www.childcarseats.org.uk)