



NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

11 September 2013

Dear Parent / Guardian

I am writing this letter to you in order to assist with your understanding about the requirements in respect of the regulations governing the use of Child Car seats and restraints.

This is being done as Cumbria Constabulary are committed to continuing to try and reduce fatalities and seriously injured people involved in Road Traffic Collisions on Cumbria's roads. One area of significant importance is that of child safety within the vehicles using the roads in Cumbria and most commonly to and from school.

The main message is that of **'Wearing a seatbelt is the single most effective way of saving lives and reducing injuries in road collisions.'**

Cumbria police are therefore urging you as parents to make sure that the children in your vehicles are being carried in or on the correct Child seat or restraint.

Child seats are designed for different weights. Suitable child restraints are explained below:

<p><u>Group 0</u> Under 13kg, rear facing seat. Not in front of vehicle unless Airbag has been deactivated</p>  <p>(Approx Birth to 9-12 months)</p>	<p><u>Group 1</u> 9-18kg, front or rear facing seat</p>  <p>(Approx 9 Months to 4 Years)</p>
<p><u>Group 2</u> 15-25kg Booster seat. May have back or sides</p>  <p>(Approx 4 to 12 Years)</p>	<p><u>Group 3</u> Over 22kg Booster Cushion</p>  <p>(Children of 6 years and up)</p>

Under the Road Traffic Act 1988 the following regulations **MUST** be adhered to:

1. Children under 3 yrs in the front or back **MUST** be in the correct child restraint.
(unless in a taxi were one is not available)
2. Children aged between 3-11yrs and under 1.35 metres (4ft 5in) **MUST** be in the correct child restraint
3. Children over 1.35metres (4ft 5in) OR aged 12 or 13yrs **MUST** wear an adult seat belt.
4. Children 14yrs and over **MUST** wear an adult seat belt but are responsible for wearing it themselves.

In point 1-3 it is the driver's responsibility and if an offence is detected a £60 Fixed Penalty Notice could be issued or if the case goes to Court you could be fined up to £500 per offence.

As mentioned another very important point that you must adhere to is that if the child is travelling in the front of the vehicle in a rear facing seat, you **MUST** De-activate the passenger airbag. If you do not you may be putting your child at serious risk of further injury during a collision.

Seat belts and the correct use of child restraints are vital for your children's safety. You are urged that over the summer holiday period, if you do not have the appropriate child restraint or seat for your child/children that you rectify this situation before the new term.

To assist you with the purchase of any required Child seat or restraint, Listers (Oxford St Workington) and Halfords (Derwent Howe Retail Park Workington) have been kind enough to offer their support and provide you with a 10% discount upon production of this letter on any child seat or restraint.



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WORKINGTON

IMPORTANT - The Police will be running numerous operations/checks at schools throughout the West Cumbria area come the new term and beyond, in respect of further educating and importantly for yourselves, enforcing the above regulations.

If you do have any queries, questions or you need assistance with the purchasing or fitting of any child restraint or seat please do contact either myself or one of the local retailers who have assured me that they are more than happy to assist anyone in the interests of SAFETY!

Thank you for your support and efforts.

Yours Sincerely

PC 1312 David Edwards

Western Roads Policing Unit, Workington AHQ