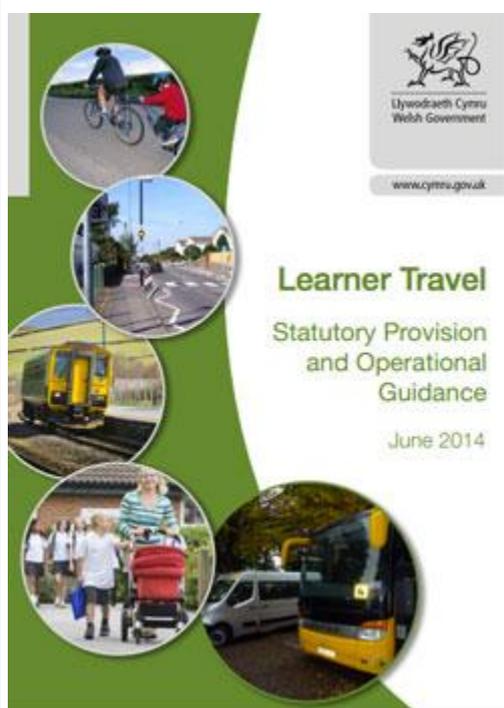


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New Guidance on School Transport Published



Transport Minister Edwina Hart has issued new, clearer guidance on school transport including safeguarding children who walk to school. The new Learner Travel Operational Guidance has been produced following consultation from primary school pupils involved with the Children's Commissioner for Wales' Super Ambassadors scheme. This new guidance will help ensure pupils' views can be heard on learner travel matters.

The new guidance is more comprehensive, user-friendly and accessible for all users, including parents, schools and local authorities. There is an emphasis on ensuring that children who walk to school are safe. The guidance contains a new chapter on the risk assessment of walked routes to school – which recommends that local authority Risk Assessors have

regular contact with Local Safeguarding Children Boards.

Earlier this year the Transport Minister announced Safe Routes in Communities funding of £5m towards 30 new projects across Wales. The schemes will help ensure walked routes to school are safer. Projects include new crossings, traffic calming measures, cycle paths, footpaths, secure cycle facilities and lighting. The Minister has also committed to officials carrying out a review of the safety of access to all schools on the trunk road network.

Mrs Hart said:

"We have listened to the response to our consultation, especially the feedback from pupils themselves via the Children Commissioner for Wales to produce clearer, more comprehensive guidance on learner travel. It sets clear standards that children and young people can expect when traveling to and from their place of education. There are clear health, social and educational benefits for children who walk or cycle to school, so this new guidance puts particular emphasis on ensuring children have the opportunity to do that safely."

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) has unveiled a revamped Child Car Seats website to advise parents and carers on the safest way for children to travel in cars.

The website - www.childcarseats.org.uk - is visited by around 4,500 people every day. It has become a trusted source of safety information for anyone needing advice about child car restraints in the UK.

Properly fitted child car seats are very effective in protecting children if there is a car crash, but it is essential that the child car seat is suitable for the child's weight and size. Rearward-facing baby seats reduce the risk of death and injury in a crash by 90 per cent compared with being unrestrained and forward-facing child seats and booster seats reduce the risk of death and injury by more than 70 per cent.

In Great Britain in 2012, 19 children under the age of 12 were killed while travelling in cars, almost 200 were seriously injured and more than 4,700 slightly injured.

The revamped website provides up-to-date information on the types of child car seats available, including seats that are fitted with the car's seatbelts, Isofix seats, which have fitting points built into the car, and i-Size seats, which meet a new child car seat regulation.

The website also provides advice on which seat to choose for your child and car and how to use them; the law and things drivers ought to know if they carry other people's children in the car. It is mobile-friendly and easy to navigate, especially for busy parents, who will now be able to access the website on the go via their mobile phone (but not while driving, of course), which could come in handy when out shopping for a child car seat.

Child car seats are designed and tested for children in different weight ranges and that's what parents should be checking when they are selecting an "appropriate" seat.

However, the seats need to be fitted properly, and research shows that many parents are still struggling to use the right car seat for their child and fit it correctly. Common mistakes include moving the child into a larger car seat too soon, and not securely fitting the car seat in the vehicle. Poor fitting can mean that the seat will not protect a child in a crash.

Kevin Clinton, RoSPA's head of road safety, said: "The child car seats website is essential reading for parents, carers or grandparents whether they are choosing a baby's first child car seat or are looking to move toddlers or older children from one seat to another.

"The importance of properly fitting a child seat cannot be over stated; make sure it is compatible with the car it will be used in and remember to seek expert help on fitting, perhaps from a retailer who has staff trained in fitting child car seats. We encourage parents to check that the seat is fitted correctly before every journey, especially if they are regularly taking it in and out of the car.

"Do avoid purchasing second-hand car seats as they might not comply with the latest standards, the fitting instructions may be missing and you cannot be sure of their history, such as whether they have already been in an accident."

The re-design of www.childcarseats.org.uk was funded by the Department for Transport.





The Institute of Highway Engineers (IHE) has launched a revised version of its motorcycling guidelines in a [new multi-platform website](#).

The award winning guidelines have been updated from the 2005 version and set out practical guidance for transportation professionals on providing a safer environment for motorcycles, mopeds and scooters.

Tony Sharp, IHE motorcycling champion, said: "The new, updated version of IHE's motorcycling guidelines reflects both changes in policy and advances in technology and knowledge since 2005.

"It aims to give industry professionals greater awareness of the specific safety needs of powered two-wheelers and looks at effective ways to improve rider safety.

"Although there have been several improvements to casualty rates over the last decade, riders are roughly 35 times more likely to be killed and over 50 times more likely to be seriously injured in a reported road collision than car occupants.

"Raising awareness of the specific safety requirements for motorcyclists among professionals is crucial and IHE's Motorcycling Guidelines are a step in that direction."

The IHE Guidelines have been cited as best practice both domestically and internationally and were awarded the Prince Michael International Road Safety Award in 2005.

The new website was sponsored by the IHE, Motorcycle Industry Association (MCIA), DfT and IAM.

Lowest UK Road Deaths Ever



Department
for Transport

The latest UK [Department for Transport road casualty statistics](#) show a decrease by 2 per cent compared with 2012. This is the lowest figure since national records began in 1926.

The statistics show that:

- In 2013, 1,713 people were killed in road accidents in the UK, the lowest number on record, and half as many as in 2000.

A new RoSPA report which has concluded that road deaths and serious injuries involving at-work drivers and riders is “one of the most serious road safety issues”.



The [Strategic Review of the Management of Occupational Road Risk](#), carried out by TRL and the

Centre for Transport Studies at University College London, assesses progress made in helping employers to manage the risks their staff face when they use the road for work purposes.

Figures in the review show that since 2006, in the UK 4,726 people have been killed and more than 40,000 seriously injured in collisions involving an at-work driver or rider (not including commuting); **almost 30% of road deaths and more than 22% of serious casualties occur in collisions involving at least one at-work driver or rider.**

The review suggests that more needs to be done to ensure work-related road safety is given the same attention as general health and safety. It also says that more should be done to evaluate the effectiveness of different approaches to the management of occupational road risk (MORR), and calls for more work into the effectiveness of in-car data recorders and monitoring technologies.

RoSPA will lead a MORR stakeholder forum in the autumn to help develop an action plan. We will also be developing guidance for employers to help them evaluate the measures they have to manage their occupational road risks.

Sharing the Road: Cycle Safety Campaign



Throughout July, Roads Policing officers ran a campaign to improve cycle safety in Gwent.

The month-long campaign focused on raising awareness of steps cyclists, motorists and other road users can take to stay safe on our roads.

July last year saw the highest number of road traffic collisions in Gwent involving a cyclist compared to other months. There were two fatal collisions, one serious and ten slight.

During the campaign officers were undertaking cycle patrols focussing on the most popular urban cycle routes in the force area. This was complimented by a social media campaign, on Facebook and Twitter. Follow @gwentpolice for advice and tips on how to stay safe.

PS Jason Love who led the campaign said;

"Cycling can be great fun, a good way to stay fit and is for some, a necessity to get from A to B, however cyclists can be vulnerable and it can come with risks.

"This campaign has been designed to increase awareness of the safety precautions cyclists can take, and to promote how road users can share the road safely. Ultimately our aim is to reduce the number collisions on Gwent roads."



Road safety professionals from across Wales met in June at the annual Road Safety Wales Conference. The event was hosted by Dyfed Powys Police at Police Headquarters in Carmarthenshire. Topics for the Conference included:

- Safety cameras with a presentation by Christopher Hume, Partnership Manager for GoSafe;
- The legal process of a road traffic collision explained by Roger Henderson, Partner at Lyons Davidson Solicitors;
- The science of road safety education, by Darren Divall, Principal Road Safety Consultant at TRL;
- Ben Johnson, Senior Strategy and Planning Manager at Transport for London who presented the opportunities and challenges in making safe streets for London;
- The issues surrounding alcohol and road safety were outlined by Andrew Misell, Director of Alcohol Concern Cymru and
- Carys Thomas, Deputy Director of Sustrans Cymru delivered her presentation "Safer Streets for All".
- Susan Storch, Chair of Road Safety Wales said: "Since the early 1990s this annual gathering of road safety professionals from across Wales has both educated us and stimulated new ideas. I hope that delegates returned to their regions freshly challenged and motivated to deliver casualty reduction schemes that will contribute to achieving the targets set out in the Road Safety Framework for Wales."

Driverless Cars



Business Secretary Vince Cable has announced 2 new measures that give the green light for driverless cars to take to UK roads from January 2015.

UK cities can now bid for a share of a £10 million competition to host a driverless cars trial. The government is calling on cities to join together with businesses and research organisations to put forward proposals to become a test location.

Up to 3 cities will be selected to host the trials from next year (2015) – and each project is expected to last between 18 and 36 months and start in January 2015. Ministers have also launched a review to look at current road regulations to establish how the UK can remain at the forefront of driverless car technology and ensure there is an appropriate regime for testing driverless cars in the UK.

Two areas of driverless technology will be covered in the review: cars with a qualified driver who can take over control of the driverless car and fully autonomous vehicles where there is no driver.

Contact the Compiler

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