



Car Seat Policy

In the out of school club, we drop off and collect children from school. The law states that children must use a child car seat until they're 12 years old or 135 centimetres tall, whichever comes first.

All our children are below this age range so it will be assumed that all children require car seats unless we have written confirmation from parents that their child is over 135cm tall. Written confirmation will be sort at the registration stage. We will ask for this information on the child's registration form. If necessary, this confirmation will be requested again if the child is thought to have exceeded the height restriction.

Children over 135cm tall must wear a seat belt.

If a parent does not provide a car seat for their child then Moorwell Miracles nursery will provide a car seat for them. All our car seats are forward facing and comply with United Nations standard, ECE Regulation 44.04 (or R 44.03) or to the new i-size regulation, R129.

Unless stated by parents, as a general rule all infants school children will be provided with a high-backed seat and juniors will be provided with a booster seat.

In the interest of airbag safety if putting a child in the front seat please make sure the car seat is as far back as possible from the dashboard.

Car seats will be used for every single journey, no matter how short. The staff member must also ensure that the children are wearing their seat belt and that it is positioned correctly, as follows:

- The car's seat belt goes around both the child and the booster seat or booster cushion.
- The seat belt should be worn as tight as possible
- The lap belt should go over the pelvic region (from hip-bone to hip-bone), not the stomach
- The diagonal strap should rest on the child's shoulder, not the neck (most high backed seats have a slot or a clip to help position the belt).

Some children go through a phase of slipping out of the harness, putting their seatbelt under their arm or behind their back and/ or releasing the buckle. The following points may help to stop children undoing their harnesses:

- Ensure the children know that their harness keeps them safe from harm
- Depending on the age of the child, make 'doing up the belt' into a chant or song
- Show the child that you wear your seat belt - perhaps you can both sing or chant as you are doing up your own belt too
- Do not start the engine until you are sure that the child is secure in their harness and child seat AND that your seat belt is correctly fastened (perhaps this could be part of a game also - ask the child if everyone is belted up and whether it's OK to drive off)
- If possible (e.g. on a leisure trip, or a trip to friends), tell the child that you cannot take them if their harness is not done up - as you don't want any harm to come to them
- If the child undoes the harness during the journey, pull over as soon as it is safe to do so and repeat that the harness must be done up to save them from being hurt. Do not start again until they are back in their harness.
- Please remember that it is most important for the driver NOT to be distracted by these activities

- If a child refuses to use the correct car seat or to put their seat belt on and you need help please contact another member of staff at the nursery and we will arrange for another staff member to come and help. If necessary, take them back into school until help arrives.

The most important thing to remember is to be consistent.

Do not give in by letting the child travel without being safe and secure. This would be illegal but, more importantly, would put the child at risk of serious injury or death if the vehicle is involved in an accident. It will also be more difficult to insist that the child wears their seatbelt next time they are in the car.