



**Knowsley Council**

September 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

## **HOW SAFE IS YOUR CHILD?**

When a child starts school there can be big changes for all the family. As a parent you may have been feeling excited about your child's first day at school, a little nervous perhaps, but no doubt you will have had a few specific worries too.

Research has shown that parents' main concerns include; whether their child will make friends and settle in quickly or be upset every day, whether they will eat their lunch and even whether their new teacher will like them! You may share these concerns and perhaps even more, especially with the additional uncertainty caused by the Covid-19 pandemic this year. What you may not have considered yet is the safety of your child as they travel to and from their new school.

Now that your child has started school, one of the greatest dangers they face is the risk of being hurt in a road traffic collision. On average, before leaving school at the age of 16, two children in every class will be killed or injured whilst travelling in a car or crossing a road.

Even at this young age your child can begin to learn how to keep themselves safe. Teaching them at the roadside is the most effective way for them to learn. The 'How Safe is Your Child?' leaflet provided gives advice and guidance for the best way to help your child.

Many children are injured in crashes simply because they are not using appropriate child seats or seatbelts. How many times have you seen a child kneeling up on the back seat of a car, sitting on an adult's knee or standing between the two front seats? This is a real problem because, even in a 20 mph crash, a child will be thrown forward and will hit whatever is in front of them, often the windscreen.

Most crashes happen during short journeys on local roads. You can't always avoid a collision but you can ensure that your child is protected every time they travel in a car.

Knowsley's Road Safety team has developed a comprehensive programme of education for children, their teachers and families. Your child will receive road safety education and training throughout their school life and you will be provided with resources to support this.

**If you would like any further advice about how to improve your child's road safety skills, please contact the Road Safety team by email at [roadsafety@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:roadsafety@knowsley.gov.uk).**

Yours faithfully,

**Andrea Bate**  
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