

Parent road safety newsletter

Transition road safety advice for parents and guardians of Year 5 & 6 pupils

June 2025

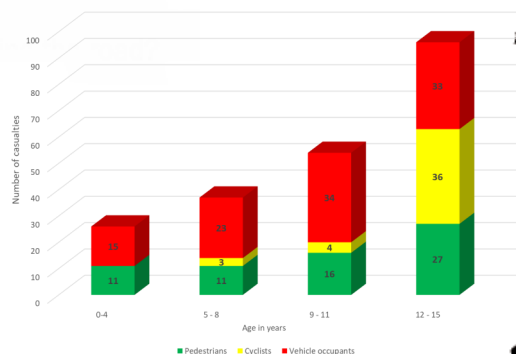
Your child is either starting Secondary School soon or asking if they can start to travel to school more independently and you may have some concerns about the transition to this stage.

The Road Safety Team want to support you with the next stage where they are starting to make their first regular independent journeys.

Below and overleaf are some ways you can help them stay safer on their journey to and from school.

The graph above shows our child casualty statistics in Hampshire in 2023 when there were 213 casualties aged 0 - 15 years; this highlights the increase in casualties as children get older.

Young people are more at risk as they get older and begin to travel independently. With **traffic being the biggest single cause of accidental death for 12—16 year olds**, it is essential your child understands the risks on their peak time journeys to and from school — including what responsible choices they need to make to keep themselves and their friends safe.

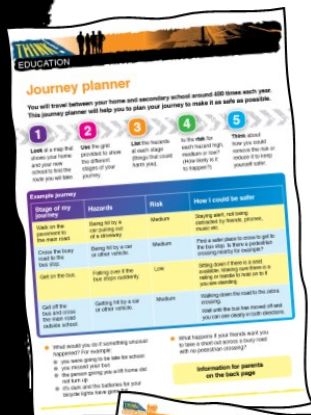


Plan & rehearse their route to school

If your child is currently in Year Five....have you considered giving them the opportunity to practice their familiar route to primary school or walking half way independently this term or in September?

If your child is currently in Year Six.....your child will be making the transition to Secondary School soon. They may be taking their first independent journey to school - to a new location.

For both scenarios, the questions below are ones you may be considering and hopefully these suggestions will support you and your child with this transition.



- Have they used the route before?
- Have they crossed those roads, at peak time, before?
- Have they crossed any roads, at peak time?
- Do they know the route they will be taking?
- Will they be walking with friends?

All of these questions can be covered by completing the risk assessment activity above with your child. Practice the route with them, considering the risks and how they can be minimised. You could use one of their transition days to practice the route with them - when it is busy and at the time of day they will be making the journey.

If you would like a copy of this activity to do with your child, please email road.safety@hants.gov.uk.

Maisie's story....

Does your child always wear their cycle helmet?

On Thursday 3rd November 2016, Jane Godden received a call which every parent dreads; her daughter Maisie had been involved in a serious road traffic collision whilst cycling to school.

Do you worry that your child doesn't wear their cycle helmet on every journey? During recent workshops with Years 5 & 6, we have been shocked at how many students admit to not wearing one, and often give the following reasons:

- It doesn't fit
- It is uncomfortable
- It looks stupid
- My friends don't wear theirs
- They are uncool/not very fashionable



To encourage young people to make responsible choices, we need them to consider the consequences of not riding sensibly or not wearing a cycle helmet.

The Road Safety Team would strongly encourage you to watch this video with your child or children; they may have seen it in school but it would give you the opportunity to discuss the importance of making the right choices on their journeys.

Thankfully for her and her family, Maisie made the safer choice of wearing a helmet and is still here to share her story; Maisie wants as many people as possible to hear how wearing a helmet saved her life.

Please visit [Maisie's Story - What do you think - talking about the use of cycle helmets - YouTube](#) to encourage your child to make the responsible choice, like Maisie. It could save their life.

Just the Journey map

The My Journey and Road Safety Team have worked together to produce a downloadable map and leaflet for secondary pupils in Hampshire.

The maps were developed to assist new Year 7 pupils as they adjust to their new, independent travel to secondary school. They allow pupils and parents to plan a safe route to their new school and destination, with highlighted footpaths, cycle routes, pedestrian crossings and parking available, away from the school. It also displays how long the journey will be from your starting point. Use this map to plan your child's safe route with them as well as discussing why the shortest route isn't always the safest. To view the map and leaflet, visit [Just the Journey Map](#).



Hints and tips advice leaflet

On the second page, there are hints and tips for young people to help them make safer, more responsible decisions when travelling to school, whether walking, cycling or getting the bus.



don't leave your senses at the roadside

Make sure you are aware of what's going on around you
while listening to music outdoors.

For more information, please visit www.hants.gov.uk/roadsafety