



Arboretum Primary School

Safeguarding Newsletter – April 2026

In our March newsletter I wanted to look at keeping Children Safe: Road Safety & Car Safety (Ages 0–11)

Keeping Children safe on the journey to and from School

When Walking to School .

- Hold your child's hand, especially near busy roads
- Always use pavements and keep children on the **inside**, away from the traffic.
- Teach children to stop, look, listen, and think before crossing.
- Avoid distractions such as phones or headphones when crossing roads.

When Travelling by Car

- Ensure all children use the correct **age-appropriate car seat** (0–11 years).
- Keep car seats properly fitted and check straps before every journey.
- Always park safely—**never on zig-zags**, drop-off points, or blocking driveways.
- Children must exit the car on the **pavement side** wherever possible.

Safe parking around Arboretum Primary School



Our school is based in a **busy area of Normanton**, and safe parking keeps all of our children safe.

Please avoid:

- Parking on yellow zig-zags on Corden Street and on Cambridge Street.
- Stopping on corners or blocking visibility
- Double parking or stopping in the middle of the road

Safer alternatives:

- Park a short distance away and **walk the last few minutes**
- Use local side streets safely and respectfully
- Allow extra time in the morning to avoid rushing

Using the Zebra Crossing on the School Car Park



We have a zebra crossing located near the entrance/exit of the reception area, in the car park. Please use this **every time** you are crossing the car park with your child.

How to use it safely:

- Stop at the crossing line and wait for cars to come to a complete stop
- Hold your child's hand firmly
- Walk, don't run, across the crossing
- Never cross between moving or parked cars
- Avoid standing on the roadway while waiting

This helps drivers clearly see families and reduces risk in an already busy area.

Holding Children Safely When Entering the School Car Park Area



When you press the buzzer to enter through the car park gate, please **hold your child's hand at all times**.

Children can move quickly, and the car park is an active vehicle area.

Please ensure:

- Children stand **next to you**, not in front or behind
- No running ahead towards the car park
- You stay on the pedestrian path inside the car park
- You wait for the gate to fully open before walking through

This small step prevents accidents and keeps everyone safe.



Additional Road Safety Tips

- Encourage your child to wear a **coat with bright colours** or reflective strips.
- When using scooters or bikes, ensure helmets are worn.
- Model good behaviour—children learn from what they see adults do.
- Remind children that the school car park is **not a play area**.



Useful Reminders for All Parents & Carers

- Be patient during busy times—everyone wants children to be safe.
- Follow instructions from staff managing the gates and car park.
- If someone else is collecting your child, please make sure they know the safety rules too.

- Take a moment each day to remind your children about safe crossing.

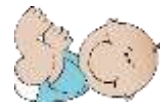
And Finally.....

Thinking about car safety

UK law requires children to use a suitable car seat **from birth until age 12 or 135 cm**, whichever comes first. After this point, they must use a seat belt.

Below is an age-based breakdown, along with seat types, laws, and best practice guidance.

Birth to ~15 Months (0–13 kg / up to ~76 cm)



Legal Requirements

- Must use a **rear-facing** seat. Height-based (i-Size/R129) seats legally require rear-facing **until at least 15 months old**.
- Approved seats must show the **R129** or **ECE R44** label.
- **Group 0** (0–10 kg): lie-flat or rear-facing baby carriers.
- **Group 0+** (0–13 kg): rear-facing infant carriers with harness.

Safety Tips

- Keep rear-facing **as long as possible** — experts recommend up to around age **4** for maximum protection.
- Never install a rear-facing seat in the front if the airbag is active.



15 Months – 4 Years (9–18 kg / up to ~105 cm)

Seat Types

- **Group 1** (9–18 kg): rear- or forward-facing with harness or safety shield.
- **I-Size seats**: rear-facing until **15 months minimum**, many models rear-face up to **105 cm**.

Best Practice

- Rear-facing for as long as the seat allows—significantly safer in frontal collisions.
- ISOFIX installation recommended for secure fitting and reduced misuse.

4–7 Years (15–25 kg / ~105–125 cm)



Seat Types

- **Group 2** (15–25 kg): high-back booster seats or booster cushions using seat belt/harness.

Notes

- Children should ideally use **high-back boosters** for improved side-impact protection.
- Booster **cushions alone** are still legal for older seats but **only newly manufactured cushions approved as Group 3** exist now.



7–12 Years (22–36 kg / 125–135 cm)

Seat Types

- **Group 3** (22–36 kg): booster cushions or high-back boosters using seat belt.
- Backless boosters may only be used for children **>22 kg or >125 cm**.

Legal End of Car Seat Use

- Stop using a car seat at **135 cm or age 12**, whichever comes first.

Choosing the Right Seat

Based on authoritative 2026 safety guidance:

- Check your child's **height and weight** to ensure correct group.
- Ensure compatibility with **your vehicle** and check ISOFIX availability.
- Look for seats tested by **i-Size (R129)** for mandatory side-impact protection.
- Remove bulky coats for proper harness fit.

Installing the Seat Safely

Studies suggest up to two-thirds of seats are fitted incorrectly.

Follow these steps:

- Read both seat + vehicle manuals carefully.
- Ensure rear-facing seats sit at the correct incline.
- Seat should not move more than **2.5 cm** side-to-side.
- Never use side-facing vehicle seats for children.

