



St Joseph's School ~ Renmark

Private Vehicle Use Policy



PHILOSOPHY:

St Joseph's School complies with the current South Australian / National Government guidelines for the safe transportation of all children attending the school.

It is recognised that children need different restraints as they grow.

To provide maximum safety benefits, the restraint must match the size of the child and be properly installed and adjusted to fit the child's body.

Child restraints -four to seven years

Reception to grade three

Children in this age group must not travel in the front seat of a vehicle that has two or more rows of seats unless all the other back seats are occupied by children who are also under seven years.

Children may use either an approved forward-facing child safety seat with an inbuilt harness, or an approved booster seat with either a lap-sash seatbelt or child safety harness.

If you are using a seating position with a lap-only seatbelt, you must also use a child safety harness.

The restraint must be properly installed and adjusted to fit the child's body.

'Booster' seats

'Booster' seats are allowed for passengers aged over four years. A 'booster' seat is a retro fitted seat that comes in various forms that is generally fitted to the cargo area of a station wagon to allow for additional small passengers.

'Booster' seats provide a good seatbelt fit for small passengers, however they do not offer the same level of protection as a booster seat as there's no side impact protection.

Child restraints - seven years and older

Grades 4-7

If a child is over seven years and still fits in a booster seat (up to 26 kg), they should continue using it until they are tall enough for the adult seatbelt to fit properly.

Research suggests that an adult seatbelt will fit a child properly when they are around 145 cm tall. Children who are not tall enough to use an adult seatbelt tend to slump into the vehicle seat so that their legs bend at the seat edge. This means the lap part of the seatbelt is positioned too high on their stomach and they are at risk of serious injury in a crash.

Lap-sash seatbelts provide greater protection than lap-only seatbelts. If there is a lap-only seatbelt in your car, it can be used with a properly fitting child safety harness by a child up to 32 kg (approximately 10 years of age).

How to tell if a seatbelt fits properly.

A seatbelt fits properly if:

- the sash part of the seatbelt sits flat on the shoulder without touching the face or neck.
- the lap part of the seatbelt crosses low over the hips, not the abdomen.
- it's not twisted.
- all the slack is removed.

EXEMPTIONS:



Bus drivers:

If seatbelts are fitted they must be worn by all passengers. Bus drivers will continue to be exempt from ensuring passengers under 16 years of age are restrained. Under the Australian Road Rules, a bus is defined as a motor vehicle designed to carry over 12 adults (including the driver). If a vehicle is designed to carry 12 adults or less (including the driver) it is not a bus and the driver is not exempt from ensuring all passengers are appropriately restrained.

Other exemptions:

- Motorbikes.
- a person for whom a certificate signed by a medical practitioner is produced by the driver of the vehicle.
- a person for whom a certificate of exemption issued by the Minister for Transport is produced by the driver of the vehicle.
- a person travelling in a historic vehicle that is registered and driven in accordance with the conditions of registration.
- a person in a vehicle where there are insufficient seatbelts for all occupants, priority must be given to children under 16 years of age.
- These exemptions do not apply if the certificate is not produced on request by the driver of the vehicle.

Taxis:

Taxi drivers are not required to provide child restraints or booster seats.

Taxi drivers are exempt from responsibility for passengers under 1 year old and must ensure children over one year old are seated with a properly fastened and adjusted seatbelt if no child restraint is available.

Children under one year old do not have to use a restraint, but they must travel in the back seat.

Children over one and under seven years old should be seated in their own seating position in a taxi, with their own properly fastened seatbelt if no suitable child restraint or booster seat is available.

Signed:

Chairperson School Board: *Emma Warner* Feb 2023

Principal: *Don DePalma* Feb 2023

Policy Review Date: Feb 2023

Next Review Date: Feb 2026