

Information

For further information
on road safety
contact:

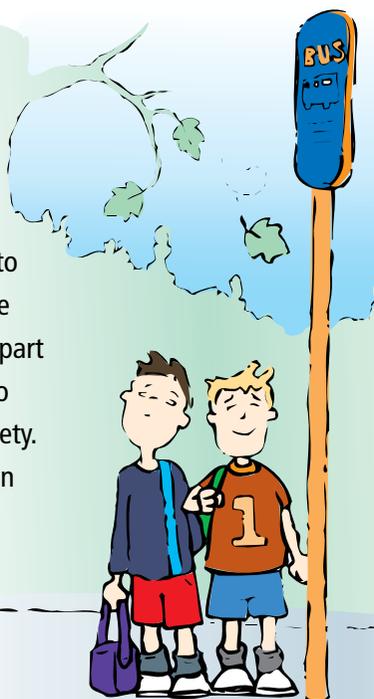
THE ROAD SAFETY OFFICER
in your local authority
or



Údarás Um Shábháilteacht Ar Bhóithre
Road Safety Authority

Páirc Ghnó Ghleann na Muaidhe, Cnoc an tSabhaircín, Bóthar Bhaile Átha Cliath,
Béal an Átha, Co. Mhaigh Eo
Moy Valley Business Park, Primrose Hill, Dublin Road, Ballina, Co. Mayo
locall: 1890 50 60 80 fax: (096) 25 000 email: info@rsa.ie website: www.rsa.ie

Ask your child's teacher to
use the teaching resource
"Be Safe" which forms part
of the SPHE curriculum to
teach your child road safety.
For further information on
educational resources in
schools see www.rsa.ie



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The Safe Cross Code

1. Look for a safe place to cross.
2. Don't hurry! Always STOP and WAIT.
3. LOOK all around before you cross the road.
4. LISTEN for any traffic.
5. If traffic is coming, let it pass. Then look around again.
6. When there is no traffic, walk straight across the road.
7. Look and listen for traffic while you cross.



RSA

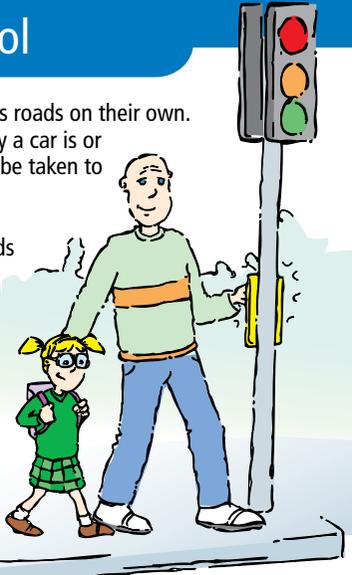
GOING TO SCHOOL

A parents guide to getting
children to school safely.

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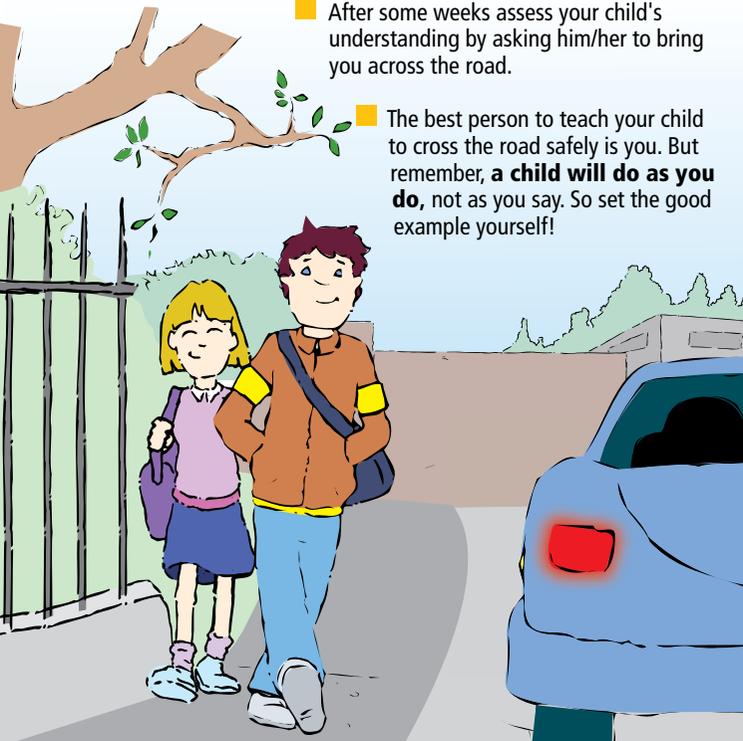
Walking to School

- Children under 7 should not cross roads on their own. They cannot decide how far away a car is or how fast it is going. They should be taken to school by a responsible adult.
- Children walking on country roads should wear reflective arm bands and belt.
- Choose a safe route to school and keep hold of your child's hand at all times.
- Don't allow your child to cross the road between parked cars. This is very dangerous as a driver will not be able to see your child. Show your child how to cross the road **by example**. Choose safe places to cross and explain the reasons why to your child i.e. footbridges, zebra or pelican crossings, with a Garda, an adult warden or junior school wardens.
- Ensure that your child always stops at the edge of the footpath, and always put the Safe Cross Code (see overleaf) into practice.



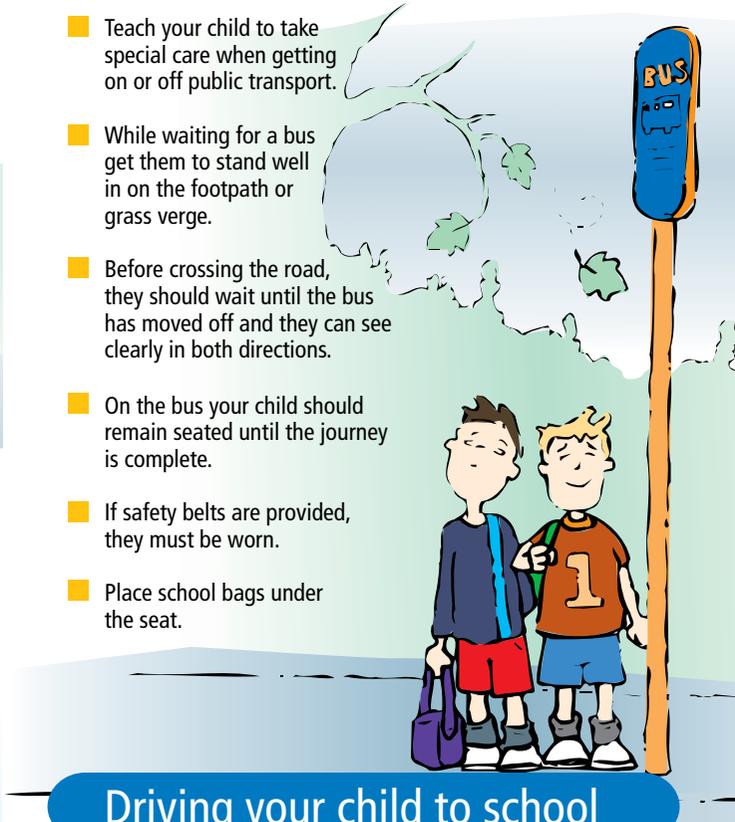
- After some weeks assess your child's understanding by asking him/her to bring you across the road.

- The best person to teach your child to cross the road safely is you. But remember, **a child will do as you do**, not as you say. So set the good example yourself!



Travelling by bus

- Teach your child to take special care when getting on or off public transport.
- While waiting for a bus get them to stand well in on the footpath or grass verge.
- Before crossing the road, they should wait until the bus has moved off and they can see clearly in both directions.
- On the bus your child should remain seated until the journey is complete.
- If safety belts are provided, they must be worn.
- Place school bags under the seat.



Driving your child to school

- Children should be secured in the back seat in a restraint appropriate to their weight and height. See www.rsa.ie/childsafetyincars for further information. Ensure they cannot open doors or windows.
- Children should never be left alone in a vehicle, **even for a brief period**.
- Set down and collect your children on the school side of the road whenever possible. Never park opposite and call your child.
- You must not park where parking is prohibited by a traffic sign or roadway markings. Children are most vulnerable when crossing the road between parked cars. Not only will the child be unable to see approaching cars, drivers will not see the child.
- Co-operate with school wardens.
- Drivers, **please** give cyclists plenty of room.
- Set a good example to children by always wearing your safety belt.

Cycling

- Research shows that children under 12 do not have the skills and experience required to be safe in traffic on their own and should only cycle accompanied by an adult or responsible person.
- Parents should decide whether their child is fit to cycle on public roads. When doing so they should be confident that their child possesses the appropriate skills and training. It is important that your child understands and is protected against potential hazards.
- Children should be taught that a bicycle is a vehicle and must follow the same rules as other road users. Impress on your children that traffic lights apply to cyclists too and that Red means Stop.
- Dedicated cycle tracks must be used if available. Footpaths are for pedestrians and not for cyclists.
- Ensure the bicycle is a suitable size for your child and that he/she can comfortably apply the brakes.
- Check that the bicycle's brakes, lights, reflectors, tyres and bell are in good working order.
- Make sure your child is highly visible and wears a reflective belt and bright clothes. The higher the visibility, the lower the risk.
- Because of their vulnerability cyclists should, in their own interest, wear protective headgear at all times. While it is not a legal requirement it is strongly recommended that cyclists wear a helmet suitable for their head size and ensure it is fitted correctly.
- For more information on safe cycling see www.rsa.ie

