



# Community Transport (Brighton, Hove & Area) Ltd

Preston Barracks, Lewes Road, Brighton, BN2 4GL  
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## CHILDREN & SEAT BELTS

New regulations came into effect on 18 September 2006, governing the use of seat belts, child restraints and baby seats by children travelling in **cars, vans and goods vehicles**.

The effect of the new regulations is that, in almost all cases where a child is travelling in a car, van or goods vehicle, every child up to 135cms (4' 5") or the age of 12 (whichever is reached first) must use a child restraint and drivers may not carry children as passengers just in seat belts.

The regulations do not, however, require children travelling in a **minibus** to use a child seat or booster seat.

All passengers in a minibus (up to 2.54 tonnes unladen weight) have been required to use **seat belts** for some years. A child required to use a child seat or booster in a car must do so in a minibus only if a suitable one is available. **A typical car child seat is not suitable for a typical minibus seat** - which is narrower and less deep. A seat is not available if it is not suitable. As a general rule, therefore, the **children will use the seat belts provided**, which are typically adjustable. **The operator is not required to provide suitable child seats**.

The new rules do not yet apply in respect of children travelling in bigger coaches and buses, but they will be the same eventually as they are for minibuses. Some of the minibuses operated by Community Transport (Brighton, Hove & Area) Ltd are larger than 2.54 tonnes unladen weight and are therefore not covered by the 2006 regulations.

Passengers in all minibuses/buses/coaches where seat belts are fitted must be notified that seat belt wearing is required by law. The small blue pictograms that are displayed on the windows of Community Transport's vehicles are deemed to be sufficient notification of this requirement.

All seats on our vehicles are fitted with adjustable seat belts. Our drivers and escorts are trained to adjust seat belts to meet the needs of individual passengers, including children.



VAT registration No. 792 4246 11  
Registered Office at the address shown  
Industrial and Provident Society Reg. No. 27319R

Where children travel on a regular basis on Community Transport's minibuses, arrangements can be made to ensure that an appropriate child seat is made available for individual children. This particularly applies to the daily home-to-school transport services that we provide. The responsibility for making these arrangements does not, however, lie with Community Transport. We will, however, work closely with parents, carers, schools and the local authority to ensure that the safest possible arrangements are made. Contact should be made with the Community Transport office, on 01273 677559.

The advice of the Department for Transport is that **a baby or child should never be carried in the arms or on the lap of an adult passenger**. An unrestrained child will be in serious danger if the vehicle stops suddenly or is in a crash.

Our vehicles are wheelchair accessible and our staff are trained to fit and use the restraint systems that have been designed to ensure the safe carriage of passengers in wheelchairs. However, these systems are **not appropriate for use with prams or children's folding pushchairs**.

*January 2007*

### **Further Information**

The Department for Transport has published a leaflet explaining the 2006 regulations relating to children travelling in cars, vans and goods vehicles:-

Child Car Seats: The New Law (Product Code T/INF/1101)

Information is also available on the Department for Transport website:-

[www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk/campaigns/childcarseats/childcarseats.htm](http://www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk/campaigns/childcarseats/childcarseats.htm)