

FAQs on Seatbelts in (School) Buses

What is the law on carrying children in buses? By law, vehicles used for the organised transport¹ of children must be fitted with the appropriate safety belts for the number of children being transported. Bus operators are required to present certification at their vehicle's roadworthiness test showing its safety belt or restraint systems were installed to an acceptable standard.

Do school bus operators have to provide child car seats/booster seats? No, legally they are not required to supply booster seats. If a parent wishes and if the bus company agrees, parents can provide booster seats or cushions for their child to use on the bus, but this is the parent's responsibility.

Can children be carried in the front seat of a bus? Yes, provided it has the appropriate safety belt.

Is it the driver's responsibility to make sure passengers wear their seatbelts? No. However, legally the bus driver must announce that seatbelts must be worn at all times when the vehicle is in motion, either through an announcement or signage. The driver can also legally refuse to carry a passenger who does not wear their seatbelt.

What is the law on seatbelt usage on buses? All passengers over the age of 14 can be prosecuted if found not to be wearing a seatbelt on a bus. An Garda Síochána is responsible for enforcing this law.

Do all buses have to be fitted with seatbelts?

Type of Bus	Yes / No
Bus involved in the organised transport of children	Yes
Stand up bus / Omnibus / City bus	No (unless used for the organised transport of children)
Bus registered from 20 October 2007	Yes
Bus registered before 20 October 2007	No (unless used for the organised transport of children)

Why are Dublin bus exempt from having seatbelts? It is not a requirement to install safety belts on an omnibus/city bus vehicle ([directive 2001/85/ec](#)) as they are of a specific design, travel on a set route and adhere to restricted speed limits at all times.

Are lap belts (2 point belts) legal on buses? There is no [law](#) against the use of lap belts (2 point seatbelts), even with the organised transport of children, but where fitted there must be adequate padding on any panel likely to strike the occupant in the case of an accident. The RSA strongly recommend the use of 3 point belts (except for side facing seats) as they are safer.

I want to make a complaint about the condition of a (school) bus. Where do I go? If you have any concerns about the condition of a bus provided, do not use it and contact the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Section on (096)25000 or email: cvrtadmin@rsa.ie. School buses are required to be roadworthiness tested every year and meet a number of [compliance requirements](#). Under Road Traffic Law it is ultimately the responsibility of the bus operator to ensure that the vehicle being used is safe, roadworthy and properly maintained all year round when in use. Failure to do so can result in prosecution.

I want to hire a bus for a school outing. What should I look for? Anyone hiring a bus should ask the bus company to complete a [Declaration of Compliance](#) which contains a checklist of the key legal minimum requirements. For more information please visit www.cvrt.ie

What licence does a (school) bus driver need to have? School bus drivers should hold the [proper licence \(Category D or D1\)](#) depending on the type of vehicle. You can contact our Licensing Section on 1890 416141 or 096 25000. Drivers must also hold a current [Certificate of Professional Competence \(CPC\)](#). For more information on CPC please use this [link](#) or contact us at 096 25015.

What is the speed limit for buses?

¹ This involves taking a group of three or more children on a dedicated trip, including to or from school, school outings, sporting events and all other organised trips.

Speed Limits	Roads
100km/hr	Dual-carriage ways or Motorways
80km/hr	On all other roads
65km/hr	Single/Double Deck buses designed for carrying standing passengers

Note: Always comply with any lower speed limit sign that is posted.