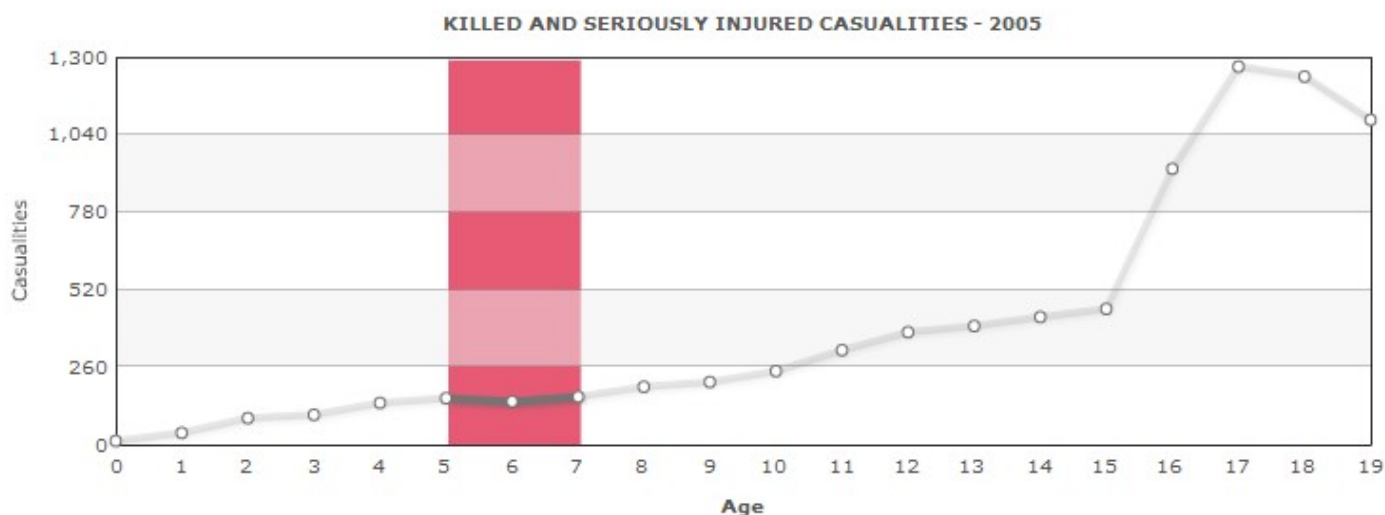


## 5 to 7-year-olds: safe to school

More than 450 children between the ages of 5 and 7 are killed or seriously injured on Britain's roads each year.

- Compared with older children, these are low-risk ages for road accidents.
- Most serious injuries occur when children are alongside urban roads.
- Busy main roads are a much greater risk than minor or residential roads.
- Boys are at most risk: nearly twice as many boys as girls are hurt on foot and about four times as many on a bicycle; in cars, boys and girls are hurt in equal numbers.



## Which journeys carry most risk?

How a child travels – by foot, bicycle or car – affects the risk.

- A third of the journeys of 5 to 7-year-olds are on foot, but more than two-thirds of those killed or seriously injured in traffic accidents are pedestrians.
- More than 60 per cent of their journeys are by car, but only 15 per cent of deaths and serious injuries are to car passengers.
- Just 1 per cent of journeys by this age group are made on a bicycle, but 11 per cent of their fatal and serious injury accidents occur when they are cycling.

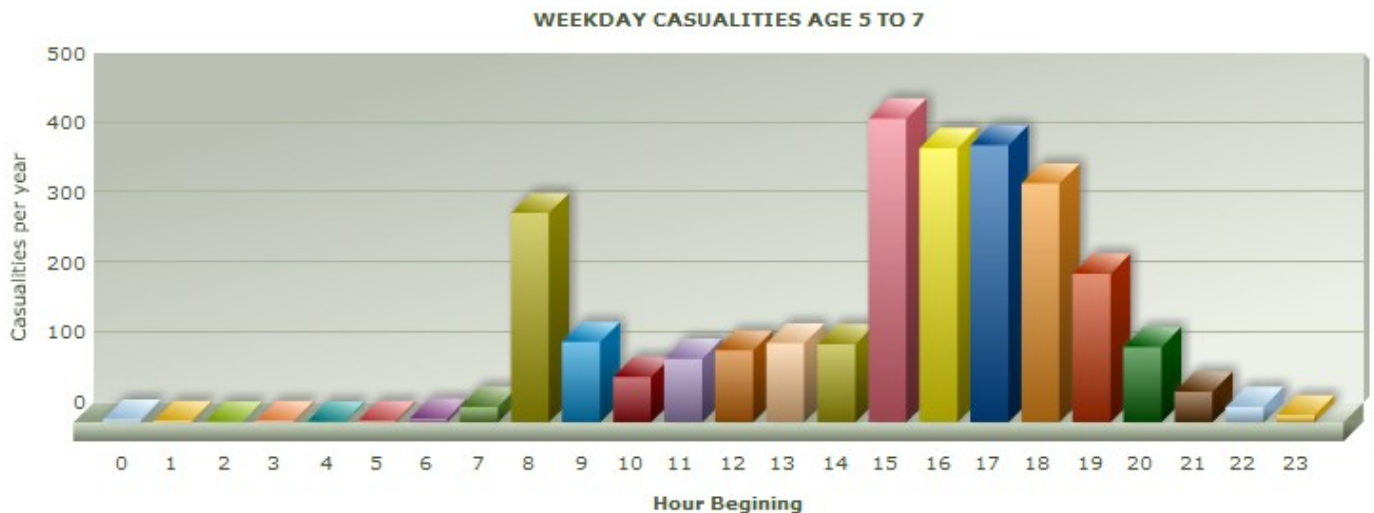
	<b>Journeys</b>	<b>Fatal / serious injuries</b>
Walk	33	71
Cycle	1	11
Car passenger	61	15

**Percentage of journeys and casualties for children aged 5 to 7 in 2005**

## When do accidents happen?

The pattern of accidents to 5 to 7-year-olds changes between schooldays, holidays and weekends.

- Term-time casualties peak between 8-9am on the way to school, and again during the hour from 3pm after school, but remain high into the early evening as children play outdoors.
- Most casualties on the school journey occur when children are in a car or walking; in the afternoon and early evening, many more are hurt while playing outdoors.
- During school holidays and weekends there are few casualties during the morning; at lunchtime and through the rest of the day many more are hurt as they play outside.
- The risk is greatest during summer months, when children are more likely to play outside.



## How can you help?

Take responsibility for teaching your children the safe rules of the road, and explain why they are important.

### Walking safely

- Teach by example: always stop at the kerb, always use a pedestrian crossing if there is one, and always wait for the Green Man, even when the road is clear.
- Walk the route to school with your children and talk to them about where the risks are, where it is safest to cross the road, and why.
- Don't let them run on ahead of you: always hold their hand on busy roads.
- Encourage their school to run classes in pedestrian safety if it doesn't do so already.
- Help them to be seen more easily by buying them light-coloured, bright clothing and reflective bands. Try the Department for Transport Think! Brand Partnerships website for advice about suitable clothing and how to obtain it. [www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk/brand.htm#crs](http://www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk/brand.htm#crs)

## Riding safely

- Teach by example: always wear a cycle helmet and bright, reflective clothes if you cycle, and make sure your children do as well.
- Go for rides with them and demonstrate safe and considerate cycling.
- In general, children under the age of 9 should not be allowed on the roads alone, but if you judge your children are old enough, make sure they are trained on a safe cycling course. Go to [www.bikeability.org.uk](http://www.bikeability.org.uk) or [www.roadsafetyscotland.org.uk](http://www.roadsafetyscotland.org.uk)
- Only when they pass the course should you allow them to cycle alone off-road, or possibly in a defined part of a very quiet cul-de-sac.

## Motoring safely

- Teach by example: always belt-up, keep to speed limits, and never drink and drive.
- Drill into your children why they must always belt-up, no matter whose car they are in (almost one in 10 children aged 5 to 13 don't).
- Know and use the correct restraint for the ages of your children. New laws about child restraints have been introduced. Between the ages of 3 and 12 children under 4ft 5in (1.35metres) tall need a booster seat if they weigh up to 25kg or a booster cushion (over 25kg). Go to [www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk/campaigns/childcarseats/pdf/law-leaflet.pdf](http://www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk/campaigns/childcarseats/pdf/law-leaflet.pdf)