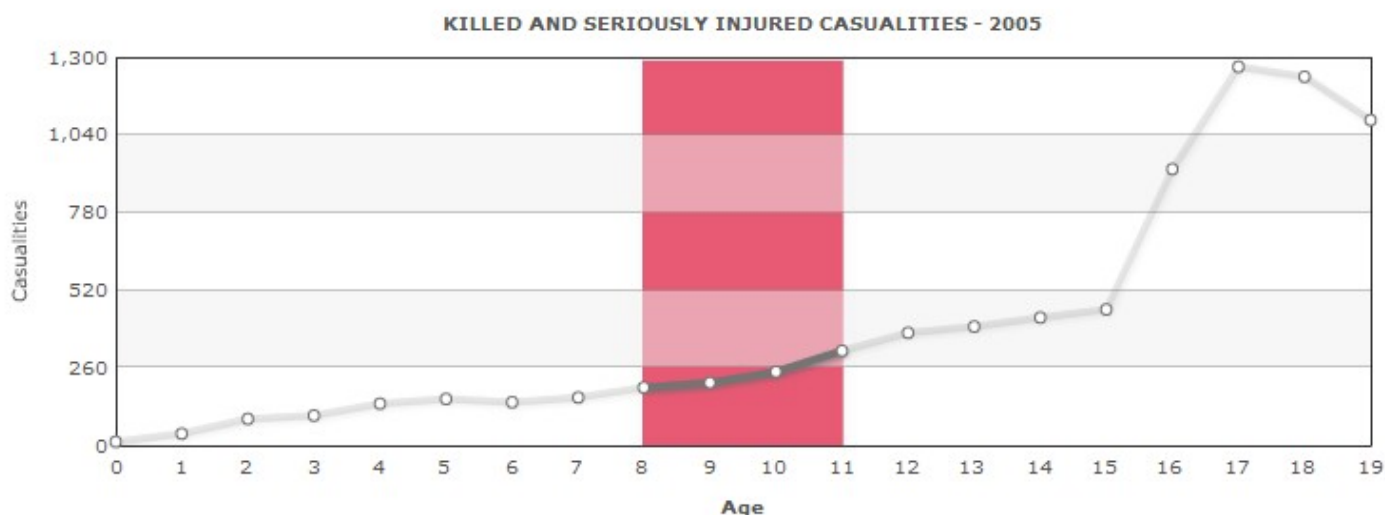


## 8 to 11-year-olds: urban dangers

Nearly 1,000 children aged 8 to 11 are killed or seriously injured on Britain's roads each year.

- This is fewer than for older age groups, but casualties rise as more children start to walk, cycle or play unsupervised alongside urban roads.
- Busy main roads are a much greater risk than minor or residential roads.
- Boys are most at risk: twice as many boys as girls are killed or seriously injured on foot and four times as many when cycling; the number of car passenger casualties, however, is roughly the same for boys and girls.
- Going to a new school increases risk substantially: two in five of all pedestrian accidents involving 11-year-olds happen on the way to or from school.



## Which journeys carry most risk?

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

- A third of all journeys by 8 to 11-year-olds are on foot, but two-thirds of those killed or seriously injured are pedestrians.
- Car travel accounts for 57 per cent of all journeys but only 14 per cent of deaths and serious injuries.
- Just 2 per cent of journeys are made by bicycle, but 17 per cent of fatal and serious injuries in this age group are to cyclists.

	<b>Journeys</b>	<b>Fatal / serious injuries</b>
Walk	33	66
Cycle	2	17
Car passenger	57	14

**Percentage of journeys and casualties for children aged 8 to 11 in 2005**

# When do accidents happen?

The pattern of risk also changes between schooldays, holidays and weekends.

- In term time, casualties are highest during the journey to and from school -- 8-9am and 3-4pm -- but afternoon casualties spread to the evening because of activities after school.
- At weekends and during school holidays, the number of accidents is low early on, but increases from late morning, as children go out to play, until around 7pm.
- There is a greater risk in the evening during summer months, when more children 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 a new school with your children and talk to them about where the risks are, and where it is safest for them to cross the road.
- Encourage their school to run classes in pedestrian safety if it doesn't already do so.
- 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 your children and demonstrate safe and considerate cycling.
- Make it a condition of cycling alone that your children attend and pass cycle proficiency training. More information is available from [www.bikeability.org.uk](http://www.bikeability.org.uk) or [www.roadsafetyscotland.org.uk](http://www.roadsafetyscotland.org.uk) .

## Motoring safely

- Teach by example: always use a seatbelt, keep to the speed limit and don't 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)