

## **MORE IMPORTANT THINGS - ROAD SAFETY FACTSHEET**

### **Teenage Road Safety Facts**

#### **Did you know?**

- Traffic is the biggest single cause of accidental death for 12 to 16-year-olds.
- Research found that 62 per cent of teenagers admitted to being distracted by talking to friends while crossing the road.

Here are a few startling facts - these are not meant to scare you, but to remind you to stay safe on our roads:

- 12–19 year olds are the age group most likely to be killed or seriously injured in a road incident. Could this be because teenagers have other things on their minds?
- In the 12-16 years age group, boys are twice as likely as girls to be killed or seriously injured when cycling. Why do you think this might be?
- Serious road incidents (deaths and serious injuries) involving pedestrians aged 12-16 years old are most likely to happen on Fridays. Could this be because pedestrians are looking forward to the weekend so thinking less about using the roads safely?
- For 12-16 year olds, the time of day when the most fatal pedestrian incidents happen is between 3pm and 5pm. Why do you think this is the case? It could be down to the 'post-school mood', where pedestrians may be more distracted, tired, or less alert.
- Typically October and November see the most pedestrian deaths and serious injuries amongst 12–16 year olds. At this time of year it is dark when people are travelling, including getting to and from school, and the road conditions may be bad.
- Road incidents are a bigger killer of young people than cancer. Statistics for 5–24 year olds in 2008 show over 700 people were killed in road incidents - that compares to around 600 by cancer, 70 by assault, 30 by drowning and 10 from meningitis.

#### **The statistics for:**

##### **Teenagers as pedestrians**

- Young people aged between 11 and 16 are more at risk of being killed or seriously injured as a pedestrian or cyclist in a road accident than other age groups.
- 1,844 12 to 16-year-olds were killed or seriously injured in Britain as pedestrians, cyclists and car occupants in 2007.
- Traffic is the biggest cause of accidental death of 12 to 16-year-olds.
- Almost 1 in 5 teenagers report having been involved in a road accident or "near miss" on their way home from school. But only 4 per cent said that road safety was their main concern.

- Research has found that teenagers are easily distracted on the roads, especially when they're in small groups of friends.

### **Teenagers as cyclists**

- Traffic is the biggest single cause of accidental death amongst 12 to 16 year olds.
- A total of 2,550 12 to 16-year-old cyclists were killed or injured on Britain's roads in 2007.
- Teenage boys are 6 times more likely to be killed or seriously injured on bikes than teenage girls.
- Young people aged between 11 and 16 are more at risk of being killed or seriously injured as a pedestrian or cyclist in road accidents than any other age group.

### **Teenagers in cars**

In 2007, 5,329 people aged 12-16 were killed or injured in cars. Many of these deaths and injuries were caused by not wearing a seat belt. When a teenager reaches the age of 14, it is their own responsibility to wear a seat belt.

### **Facts about seat belts:**

- In a crash someone not wearing a seat belt is more likely to die than someone using one. In 2007, of the 1,432 car occupants killed, research indicates that some 34 per cent were not wearing a seat belt.
- While few people admit to regularly travelling without a seat belt, research shows that 24 per cent of people admit they sometimes don't wear a seat belt when travelling in the back, and 10 per cent in the front. There is also evidence that people are less likely to use seat belts on short or familiar journeys or at low speeds. This puts them at serious risk of injury in a crash.
- You are twice as likely to die in a crash if you don't wear a seat belt.
- Nearly 300 lives would almost certainly have been saved in 2007 if all car occupants had been wearing a belt. Roughly, that's one life a day.

### **Facts about new drivers:**

Passing the driving test opens up a whole new world of freedom and independence. But new drivers should remember that they are 'on probation' for the first 2 years. If they get 6 penalty points in this time, they lose their licence and can only get it back if they pass a re-test.

Statistics show that drivers are most at risk of having an accident in the first 2 years or so after they pass their test. One in five newly qualified drivers has a crash of some description within a year.

### **Get thinking....**