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Booster Seat Policy

1. Policy Statement

St. Nicholas Special School is committed to providing the highest standards of safety for all pupils while travelling on school transport and during school-related trips.

In line with **Road Safety Authority (RSA)** guidelines and **Irish road traffic legislation**, the school requires that all children who meet the legal criteria for the use of a **booster seat** must do so when travelling to and from school or on school-organised transport.

This policy ensures compliance with national safety standards and supports the school's duty of care to safeguard every child.

2. Legal and Regulatory Framework

This policy is based on:

- **Road Traffic (Construction, Equipment and Use of Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulations 2006**
- **RSA Child Safety in Cars Guidelines**
- **Health and Safety Authority (HSA) requirements for pupil transport safety**

According to the **RSA**, children must use a suitable child car seat or booster seat **if they are under 150 cm (4 ft 11 in) in height and weigh less than 36 kg (79 lb)**.

These requirements apply to **all vehicles where seat belts are fitted**, including school buses and transport used for school trips.

3. Rationale

Children are more vulnerable in the event of a road traffic accident. The use of an appropriate booster seat:

- Ensures the seatbelt fits safely across the **shoulder and pelvis**, preventing injury.
- Provides **height and positioning support** for younger or smaller pupils.
- Is a **legal requirement** under Irish road safety legislation.

This policy helps ensure that St. Nicholas Special School continues to maintain a safe and legally compliant travel environment for all pupils.

4. Identification of Pupils Requiring Booster Seats

- Each child's **height and weight** will be reviewed in consultation with parents/guardians to determine if a booster seat is required.
- Identification will be made **in accordance with RSA guidelines**
- Parents/guardians of identified children will be formally notified of the requirement.

5. Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

Parents/Guardians of pupils identified as requiring a booster seat are responsible for:

1. **Providing a suitable booster seat** that meets **EU/Irish safety standards** (ECE R44.04 or R129/i-Size).
2. Ensuring the booster seat is **in good working order** and clearly labelled with the child's name.
3. Sending the booster seat with the child **each morning** when travelling on the school bus.
4. Ensuring the booster seat **returns home each afternoon** with the child.
5. Making the booster seat available **during the school day** if the child is attending a trip or travelling off-site.

6. School Responsibilities

The school will:

- Maintain an **up-to-date register** of pupils who require booster seats.
- Support staff and transport providers in **correct fitting and use** of seats.
- Ensure all **bus escorts and drivers** are aware of safety requirements.
- Communicate **RSA information** to parents annually or as guidance changes.
- Review and monitor compliance with this policy on an ongoing basis.

7. Non-Compliance

If a child arrives without the required booster seat:

- Parents/guardians will be contacted to deliver the seat to school immediately.
- Transport may be delayed or alternative arrangements made until compliance can be ensured.

These measures are in place to protect the safety of all children and maintain compliance with Irish law.

8. Communication of Policy

- This policy will be shared with all parents/guardians at the start of each school year.
- It will be available on the **St. Nicholas Special School website** and upon request from the school office.
- The school will continue to raise awareness of safe travel practices in partnership with parents and transport providers.

9. Review and Evaluation

This policy will be **reviewed annually** or sooner if RSA or legislative guidance changes. The review will be undertaken by the **Board of Management** in consultation with staff and parents.

References

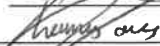
- Road Safety Authority (RSA): *Child Safety in Cars* — www.rsa.ie
- Road Traffic Regulations (S.I. No. 240 of 2006)
- Health and Safety Authority: *Transporting Pupils Safely*

Policy Ratification and Review

This Booster Seat Policy has been reviewed and approved by the Board of Management of St. Nicholas School.

Ratified by the Board of Management on: 05/11/2025

Signed (Chairperson): 

Signed (Principal): 

Review Date: November 2027