

## **‘GRANDPARENTS -THE ROAD SAFETY MENTORS’**

### **Helping the Next Generation Stay Safe on the Roads**

### **July 2025**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

These notes are an extract from our ‘Grandparents – The Road Safety Mentors’ webinar.

Dates for future webinars can be found at [www.olderdriversforum.com/gloucestershire-events](http://www.olderdriversforum.com/gloucestershire-events) If you are interested in attending a webinar, or have a relative or friend who might benefit, please register on our database by emailing [odfglos@gmail.com](mailto:odfglos@gmail.com)

With thanks to David Jones for the links.

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#### **2. WHY GRANDPARENTS MATTER**

Grandparents hold a unique and influential role in their grandchildren’s lives — not just as caregivers and storytellers, but also as trusted mentors. One of the most valuable lessons you can pass on is **how to stay safe on the road**.

Children and young people face real risks on and near roads. Road incidents are one of the top causes of preventable deaths in young people.

You can help build lifelong safety habits by sharing your own wisdom, setting an example, and supporting their formal education.

#### **3. INTRODUCING THE SAFE SYSTEM**

Modern road safety policies are built on the **Safe System** — a framework designed to reduce road deaths and serious injuries. It’s based on the acceptance that people make mistakes, but those mistakes should not cost lives.

Understanding this system can help grandchildren become responsible and cautious road users from an early age.

<https://www.brake.org.uk/get-involved/take-action/mybrake/knowledge-centre/safe-system>

## The five pillars of the Safe System are:

- ✓ **Safe Roads:** Roads should help us do the right thing. Point out on walks how pedestrians crossings, bike lanes, signs, and footpaths are designed to keep them safe
- ✓ **Safe Speeds:** Teach children that speed kills. Show them why school zone speed limits slow down drivers to give them more time to stop if someone steps into the road
- ✓ **Safe Vehicles:** Talk about the importance of car seats and seatbelts to keep them safe and always to buckle up, even on short trips
- ✓ **Safe Road Users:** Practice with them safe pedestrian habits like looking both ways, crossing at signals, and wearing helmets when cycling or scooting
- ✓ **Post-Crash Care:** Teach them when and how to call 999 and use the What3Words app to pinpoint their location in an emergency <https://what3words.com>

### TIP

Turn everyday activities, like a walk to the park, into fun games learning about road signs and safety rules.

## 4. MENTORING THROUGH LIFE STAGES

### Babies & Toddlers

- ✓ Fit your car with ISOFIX-compatible child seats
- ✓ Rear-facing seats offer the best protection for young children
- ✓ Children must use a child or booster seat until age 12 or 135cm tall
- ✓ You are responsible for ensuring any child under 14 wears a seatbelt

For advice on selection and fitting of child seats:

[www.goodeggcarsafety.com](http://www.goodeggcarsafety.com)

[RoSPA- Car seats safety guide | Proper installation and best practices for all ages](#)

### Primary School Years

- ✓ Find out if your grandchild's school offers road safety lessons
- ✓ Also ask if they offer the Bikeability cycling training programme  
<https://www.bikeability.org.uk/>
- ✓ Contact the THINK Travel Team if it's not offered  
[thinktravel@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:thinktravel@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

### Secondary School & Teen Years

- ✓ Talk about what's involved in learning to drive, the costs, practice, and responsibility
- ✓ Highlight the Fatal Four: speeding, drink/drugs, no seatbelt, and mobile phone use
- ✓ Reinforce consequences: crashes, fines and risk of losing their licence for one mobile phone usage offence

If your grandchild's school is **not** offering road safety education contact for support and advice, Emily Booker, Road Safety Lead at Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue  
[Emily.booker@glosfire.gov.uk](mailto:Emily.booker@glosfire.gov.uk)

## 5. EXTRA SUPPORT FOR YOUNG DRIVERS & MOTORCYCLISTS

**Under 17 Drivers Club** <https://under17driver.co.uk>

- ✓ For 15 to 17 age group
- ✓ Ethos: rooted in safety, responsibility and skill building before the start learning to drive on the road
- ✓ 5-day course offered during school holidays
- ✓ Takes place on safe, secure grounds
- ✓ You (or a guardian) accompany your grandchild in your own car
- ✓ £280 cost with £70 deposit. Subsidised by Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue. Bursaries available
- ✓ Participants are five times safer than other new drivers

**RoadSmart Young Driver Course** <https://iamroadsmart.com>

- ✓ For 18 to 26-year age group who have passed their test
- ✓ Teaches safe driving based on the Police Roadcraft system
- ✓ Three-to-four-month activity, classroom and practical sessions
- ✓ £204 cost, subsidised by Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue. Refunded upon completion of advanced test

### MOTORCYCLE SAFETY: BIKER DOWN!

- ✓ Free 3-hour course funded by Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue
- ✓ Held at SkillZone in Tuffley <https://skillzone.glosfire.gov.uk>
- ✓ Covers crash scene safety, motorcyclist first aid, and road visibility
- ✓ Email [bikerdown.gloucestershire@gmail.com](mailto:bikerdown.gloucestershire@gmail.com) to enquire about course dates and availability

### GIFT IDEA

Consider an Under 17 Club or IAM RoadSmart Young Driver course as a birthday or Christmas gift.



## 5. CHECKLIST FOR ROAD SAFETY MENTORING

- ✓ Familiarise yourself with the Safe System and bring it to life in your grandchild's day-to-day lives
- ✓ Use RoSPA and Good Egg guidance when selecting and fitting child seats
- ✓ Check what road safety education schools are offering
- ✓ Ask about Bikeability and FIRE-supported programmes

! If these are not offered contact GCC THINK Travel and Emily Booker, Road Safety Lead at Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue

- ✓ Consider gifting pre-driver, young driver and motorcycle safety courses
- ✓ Use real-life stories to make understanding positive road safety behaviours, personal and lasting

## 6. STAY INVOLVED

- ✓ Visit our website for resources and information on future events  
[www.olderdriversforum.com/gloucestershire](http://www.olderdriversforum.com/gloucestershire)
- ✓ Follow us on  ODFGloucestershire  @odfglos
- ✓ Invite us to give a talk in your community by emailing [odfglos@gmail.com](mailto:odfglos@gmail.com)
- ✓ Join our next webinar 'Driving Safely in Autumn' on **Saturday 27 September @ 10:00**. Registration details will be published on our website soon

### FINAL THOUGHT

Your experience can help save lives.  
Start family conversations around road safety.  
Mentor with kindness, consistency, and care.  
Let's make Gloucestershire's roads safer for the next generation, together.