

If a voluntary payment is made, does this affect my insurance?

As in all trips made by private car, it is the responsibility of the car driver to ensure that adequate insurance has been taken out and maintained. The relevant legislation is contained in section 150 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and guidance from the Association of British Insurers states:

“All motor insurers have agreed that if passengers contribute towards running costs, insurance cover will not be affected, as long as lifts are given in a vehicle seating eight passengers or fewer. This agreement does not apply if a profit is made from payments received, or if carrying passengers is a business.”

If you wish to discuss a financial contribution to be paid to the driver, the Inland Revenue Approved Business Mileage Rate for Tax Year 2008/9 is 40 pence/mile, irrespective of engine size.



For more information on car sharing and other environmentally friendly and healthy ways of travelling to school together with School Travel Plans, please contact:

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TRAVELWISE®

**Car Sharing on
the School
Journey**



**A guide to car
sharing for
parents and carers**



What is car sharing?

This is where two families with children attending the same school travel in one car rather than two. Although travelling with other family members can be seen as a form of car sharing, only when spare seats are filled by other children from other families does a real cut in the number of cars on the school run take place.

Why car share?

Car sharing is an effective way of reducing the number of cars converging on the school at the start and end of the school day and reducing congestion around the school gates. It is also a way for parents to save money and time, whilst helping the community and environment around the school.

Currently, there will be families travelling separately into school along the same route at the same time, arriving almost simultaneously at the school gates. Informal and voluntary car sharing offers an alternative.

How can I find out who to car share with?

Speak to other parents, neighbours and friends at the school gates and on suitable occasions such as a parents evening.

Ask your child if she/he has a friend/s she/he would like to car share with?

Ask at School to add your name and details to a list of potential car sharers – perhaps using the school notice board.

Ask the Headteacher or Friends to hold a special meeting to attract interested participants.

If your school has a 'travel plan' there may be a co-ordinator or travel group who might help.

Help the school hold an annual car share day or week.

Ask your school to request a free postcode map from Shropshire County Council's School Travel Team (see overleaf), which shows where children live in relation to the school. This could be displayed on the school notice board.

Who takes responsibility in a voluntary car share arrangement?

Any car sharing will be an entirely private arrangement between the parties concerned, neither created by the Council nor forming part of its statutory duties or powers.

The school may assist with communicating the idea of car sharing to children and parents/carers and hold special events but cannot take any responsibility for the subsequent actions of any car sharers. Participating car sharers will need to agree to entrust their children to each other.

Parents and carers therefore should satisfy themselves:

- **as to the identity of the other parent.**
- **that the car used by the other parent is in good working order.**
- **that the car is insured and has a valid MOT.**
- **that if someone other than the parent is to drive the car, you are still willing to allow your child to travel in the car.**
- **that the other parent will ensure that appropriate booster seats are fitted and that seatbelts are worn at all times.**

Neither the school nor the County Council can undertake or accept any responsibility for the checking of vehicles, insurance or drivers, other than to confirm that participants appear to be bona fide parents of children at the school.

If you have any doubts about the authenticity of the driver, the condition of the vehicle, their insurance, whether they hold a valid driving licence, or about the voluntary scheme in general, you should not allow your child to travel in the car.