

**SEATBELT  
SHERIFF**

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SHERIFF**  
"BUCKLE 'EM UP, SHERIFFS"



Brought to you by the  
Road Safety Authority

Moy Valley Business Park, Primrose Hill,  
Dublin Road, Ballina, Co. Mayo.

[www.seatbeltsheriff.ie](http://www.seatbeltsheriff.ie)

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# What's the Seatbelt Sheriff all about?

**The Seatbelt Sheriff is here again, looking for primary school students to help him to teach everyone his message about buckling up in the car.**

The Seatbelt Sheriff is a fun way to get children involved in saving lives on the road. Children in First Class become Seatbelt Sheriffs by taking a pledge to wear their safety belts and make sure that everyone else in the car is buckled up too. They can flash their new sheriff's badge and certificate so everyone they're travelling with knows that they must wear their safety belt. Students can also win an amazing prize for their school with our Seatbelt Sheriff competition.

Recent statistics have shown that between 2009-2018, where known, 14\* children under 16 were killed in collisions when they were not wearing a seatbelt.



safe and snug in the car. So it's really important that you always put it on, the minute you sit into the car.

## Why you should always buckle up

If the car you are travelling in crashes, you can be thrown out of your seat. You could be sent through the windscreen or into the dashboard, hurting yourself and others. A safety belt will keep you

## The Road Safety Authority's number one rule is:

All children should be kept safe in a vehicle with restraints appropriate to their height and weight. There is no alternative to buckling up – and strictly no exceptions.

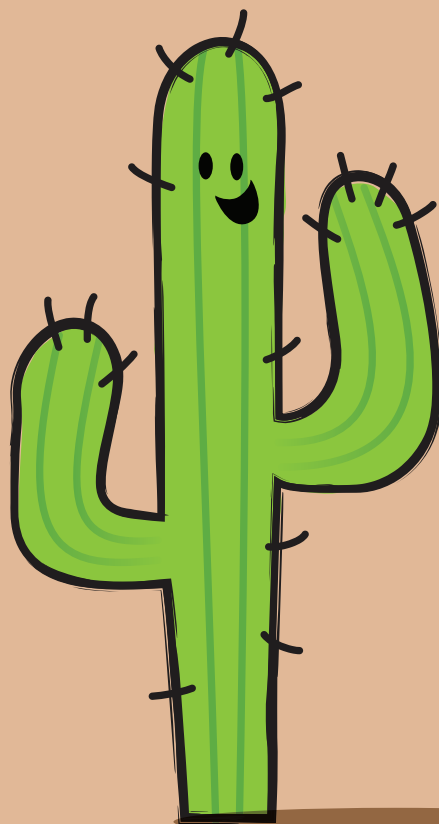
**“Time to buckle up, partners!”**

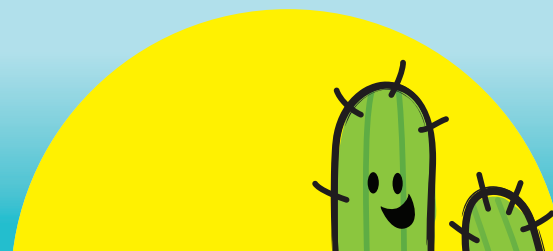


## Set a good example by always buckling up







Did you know that 11% of children going to school are not wearing restraints?

Remember, every person in a car is required by law to wear a safety belt and it is up to the driver to make sure passengers under 17 are following the law. It is very important for adults to lead by example.





## Important legal points

-  Where safety belts have been fitted, they must be worn.
-  Children under 3 years of age may not travel in a car or goods vehicle (other than a taxi) unless buckled into a child car seat.
-  Children under 150 centimetres in height and weighing less than 36 kilograms (generally children up to 11 or 12 years of age) must use the correct child seat, booster seat or booster cushion when travelling in cars.
-  Rear-facing child car seats must not be used in passenger seats protected with an active frontal airbag. This now attracts penalty points.
-  Child restraints must meet EU or United Nations - Economic Commission for Europe (UN-ECE) standards (look for the E mark).
-  Drivers have a legal responsibility to ensure passengers under age 17 are appropriately restrained.

Contact the Road Safety Authority on 1890 50 60 80 or log on to [www.rsa.ie/childsafetyincars](http://www.rsa.ie/childsafetyincars) to get a free copy of a booklet and DVD on selecting child car seats.



**“For short hops or long hops, make sure everyone in the car is properly buckled up.”**

## Important note:

For children who are under 150 centimetres in height and weigh less than 36 kilograms, using only the standard rear safety belt is not sufficient. It could even cause abdominal injuries. A booster seat ensures that the three-point safety belt is correctly positioned on the child's body. And it allows him/her to see out the window. With the help of a booster seat, the belt holds the child's pelvis in place and reduces the risk of serious injury by 30%.

# POSTER COMPETITION



**1ST PRIZE**

**€2000**



**4 REGIONAL PRIZES**

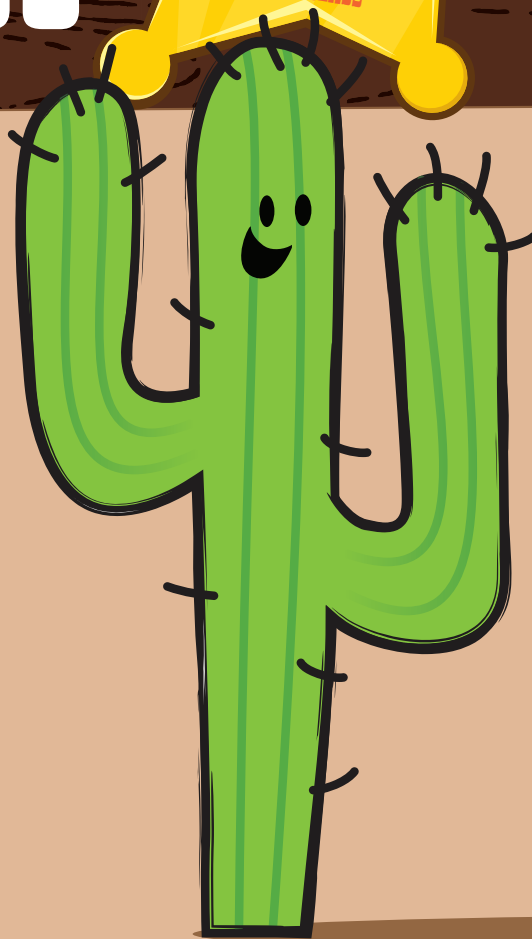
**€500**



## Design a poster

Now everyone can show just how safety belt savvy they are, with a super competition from the RSA. Students from all around Ireland are invited to take part in our Seatbelt Sheriff competition. All you have to do is design a poster all about the Seatbelt Sheriff's 'buckle up' message.

The school that sends in the winning entry will receive €2,000 and the poster will also be published in a national newspaper.



## Entering the Seatbelt Sheriff competition

### - Guidelines for teachers

This competition is for First Classes only and no more than one entry per class may be submitted. The poster you enter can be designed by all the students in the class or any individual student. You may want to organise a class competition to decide which poster should represent your class. Poster text may be written in either English or Irish, and your entry should be on a sheet of paper no bigger than A3 in size. Remember to send a completed entry form along with your submission to: **Seatbelt Sheriff Competition, PO Box 107, Ballina, Co. Mayo.** Entries must reach us no later than 14th February 2020.



# ENTRY FORM

To enter, all you have to do is design a poster!

Complete the entry form below and post it off with your poster to:  
Seatbelt Sheriff Competition, PO Box 107, Ballina, Co. Mayo,  
to reach us no later than 14th February 2020.

Name of Teacher: .....

Name of Class: .....

Name of School: .....

School Address: .....

..... School Phone: .....

Email Address: .....

**DON'T FORGET TO  
ENCLOSE YOUR POSTER!**

