



Staying Safe on the Road

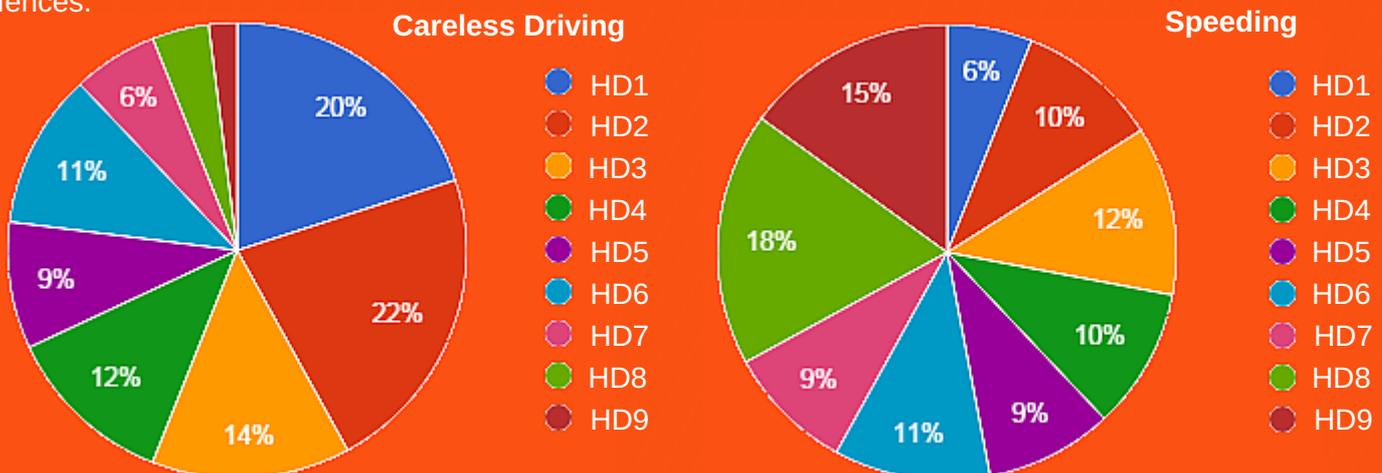
Road traffic accidents can have a terrible impact on individuals, families and communities, particularly when children are involved. With this in mind, Grieves Solicitors is pleased to announce it has joined forces with road safety charity Brake to raise awareness amongst children in Huddersfield.

In Yorkshire and Humber, **35%** of primary school children say they have been hit or nearly hit by a vehicle while travelling on foot or on a bike, according to a survey by Brake.

This factsheet aims to help parents educate children on how to stay safe when walking, cycling or playing near roads.

Dangerous Areas in Huddersfield

Statistics from Brake show the number of careless driving and speeding offences in Huddersfield by postcode, revealing that **HD2** is the worst area for careless driving offences and **HD8** has the most recorded speeding offences.



This lack of patience, consideration and responsibility towards other people on the road can and does result in tragedy, meaning children are unable to travel safely and confidently. A survey of 500 primary school children in Yorkshire and Humber shows that **65%** think roads in their community can be dangerous for walking and cycling.

So What Can Be Done to Improve Road Safety?

Brake are calling on all drivers to look out for road users by asking them to:

-  Think about the route they take and try to avoid areas where children might be using the roads, even taking public transport where necessary
-  Protect those on foot and bicycle by slowing down to 20mph around schools, shops and residential areas, as this will reduce stopping time if a child unexpectedly steps out in the path of a vehicle
-  Take it slow at junctions and bends, looking longer and carefully checking mirrors before manoeuvring will give drivers more time to check for pedestrians or cyclists who might be there as you should never assume it's safe to turn

Grieves Solicitors contacted local parenting bloggers to ask them what their advice was for keeping children safe from the dangers of the road:

Rachel from **U Me and the Kids** suggests:

“Children and teenagers have too many distractions these days such as chatting to friends, listening to music and using a mobile phone. When I was younger, we had the Green Cross Code advertised on television quite often - I don't see anything like this anymore, so educating youngsters about road safety would be something I would want to reintroduce.”

Leyla from **This Day I Love:**

“In our area, pavements are very narrow in places, only really big enough for one person and just able to fit a pushchair on with the wheels right on the edge. This can be incredibly dangerous, especially if drivers are speeding along the road.”

Tips That Could Save Your Child's Life

-  Teach them to look left and right when crossing the road, ensuring they double check each time
-  Help them understand that vehicles are complex and technical machines that need skill, caution and preparation to be around them
-  Make sure they wear something reflective, especially in winter, so they stand out at night
-  Encourage them not to listen to music through earphones, text or chat on the phone while walking
-  Ask them not to walk by the kerb as they could place themselves in danger if they trip and fall
-  Think like your children and lay down ground rules, explaining that they are there to keep them safe

What Should I Do if My Child Has An Accident?

If your child is unfortunate enough to be involved in an accident, you should do the following:

-  Ensure your child receives suitable medical attention as soon as possible
-  Report the accident to the police, if it has not been done already
-  Try to collect the names, addresses and contact numbers of those involved and any witnesses
-  If you're at the scene of the accident, or can visit it easily, try and collect the following information:
 -  Time of the accident
 -  Anything unusual about the road surface
 -  A description of the weather conditions
 -  Take photos of the incident to use as evidence

Can I Make a Claim for My Child?

A parent or guardian can make a claim on a child's behalf if they are aged 17 or under. Compensation can help pay towards a number of expenses, including:

-  Education
-  Loss of earnings
-  Pain and suffering
-  Medical treatment
-  Changes to accommodation
-  Rehabilitation
-  Travel expenses

If the worst happens and your child suffers an injury, our expert solicitors are here to assist you. We have handled many road traffic accidents involving children and understand the upset caused at this difficult time. Contact Grieves Solicitors on **0800 0747 644** or email helen.grieves@grieves-solicitors.co.uk.