

Winter Safety for Drivers and Pedestrians

Drivers

Driving is a risky business at the best of times so winter hazards such as darkness, rain, fog and ice don't help.

A particular issue is **dazzling sunshine** which can cause a real problem on the approach road to the School at this time of the year.

This illustration shows just how much visibility can be lost in these conditions:-



The outline of the warning sign and advisory speed is barely visible against the setting sun.

Reduce speed, because you can't read the sign or assess the shape of the bend ahead.

Darker evenings and mornings - Be the first to switch on your headlights in gloomy conditions. Switch on lights as soon as it starts to get dark. Be aware that pedestrians are harder to spot in the dark and may not be visible until they are very close. In particular, take care when driving near the school where students are walking.

Slow right down to 20mph – if you hit someone at this speed they have more than a nine in ten chance of survival, compared with about a 50/50 chance at 30mph.

Eyesight - If you wear glasses or lenses, never drive without them.

- Keep a spare pair in your vehicle if you're forgetful.
- Get a test at least every two years, even if you think you have perfect eyesight

Clean windscreen, windows and mirrors – ensure they are totally clear of snow, ice or steam.

Check lights and wipers – ensure they are fully functioning

Students

Please see above a reminder targeted at drivers aimed to help them focus on safe driving during winter as poor vision is a key factor why there are more accidents.

You can help reduce your chance of an accident by:

- Taking extra care around vehicles during the dark mornings and nights
- Not crossing into the path of an oncoming vehicle
- Avoid stepping behind a reversing vehicle
- Getting out of cars from the pavement side of the vehicle and not the road
- Wearing something bright and reflective - be safe be seen