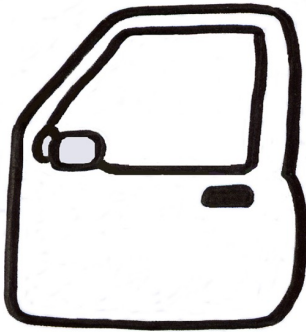


COCKPIT AND SAFETY CHECKS

When you first get in the car, it is important to set yourself up. This is usually referred to, as the 'Cockpit Drill', or DHSSM. This is an abbreviation for, Doors, Handbrake, Seat, Steering, Seatbelt, Mirrors.

Below is an explanation of why it is important to carry out this routine using this set order.

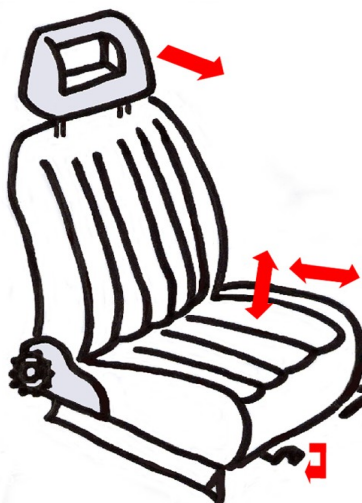
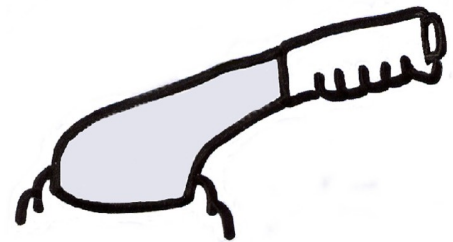


DOORS

It's important to ensure all doors are properly closed. This will prevent the risk of any doors opening when driving along the road, and, lessens the risk of you falling out! Not good on your first lesson!

HANDBRAKE

The handbrake (or parking brake, as it may be called) should be checked to ensure it is fully applied. This is very important as we will be adjusting the seat next, and if it wasn't fully on, may cause the car to move.



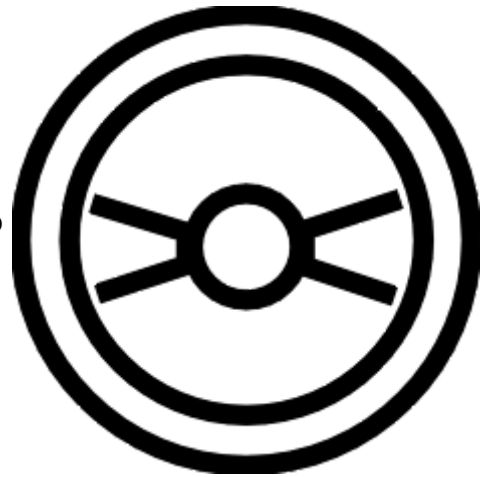
SEAT

The seat should be adjusted to allow you to easily reach the foot pedals and steering. This will ensure good comfort and control of the car. It is important that you have the the centre of headrest adjusted so its in line with centre of your head. This isn't for comfort, but, to offer the best protection from whiplash in the event of a rear end collision

STEERING

If the steering is adjustable, you should adjust it to the optimal position.

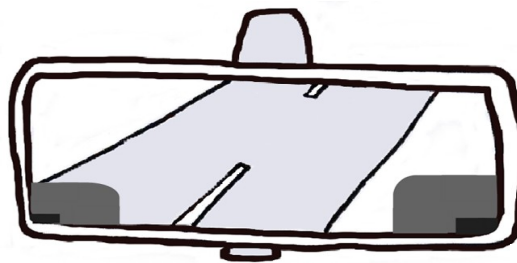
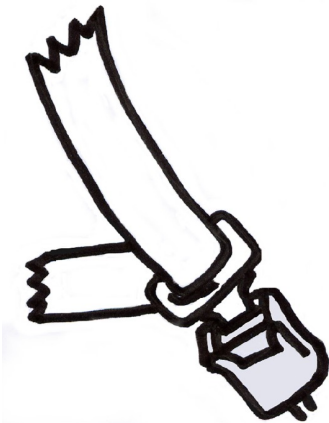
Again, like the seat, this will allow you to get the best control and be comfortable whilst driving.



SEATBELT

Always ensure your seatbelt is fully secured, not twisted and lays flat across your body. This gives you the best comfort and protection.

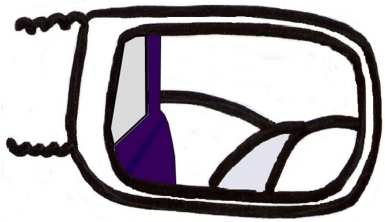
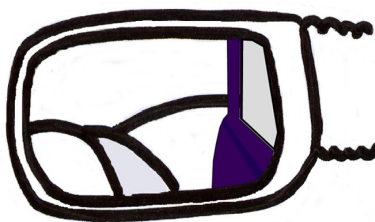
As the driver of the vehicle, it will be your responsibility to ensure all passengers under the age of 14 wear their seatbelts.



MIRRORS

Adjust both side mirrors so that the horizon is in the centre, and you can see approximately 2 fingers width of the cars side. The interior mirror should be adjusted so that you frame the whole of the rear window.

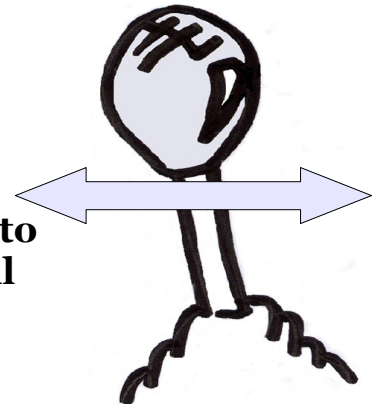
Its important to note that what you see in the interior mirror, is the true image. The side mirrors will appear to make things look smaller and further away. This helps give a wider view up the sides so that its easier to spot anyone overtaking.



BEFORE STARTING THE ENGINE

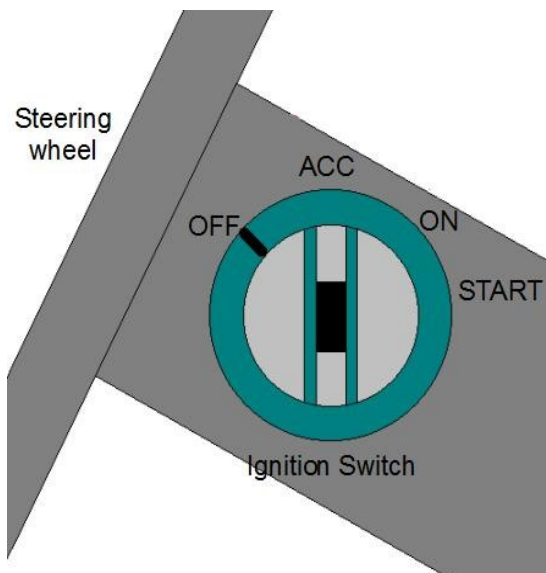
So your all set-up and ready go!

But, before you get ready to start the engine, there is one other check to make, it's important to make sure the cars gears are in neutral. This will prevent the car trying to lurch forward when starting the engine.



Neutral can be checked by making sure the gear stick 'springs' from left to right.

OK, so we're ready to start the engine! The ignition switch has various positions, these are as follows;



OFF – The engine is off.

ACC – This is the accessory position, this will allow the radio and electric mirrors to work.

ON – This will switch on all electrics, which will be seen by the warning lights on the dash. This is the position the switch will need to remain in to keep the engine running, once it is started.

START – Turning to this position will start the engine. The switch is spring loaded, so once the engine has started, just release the key. This will allow the switch to spring back to the 'on' position.

It's important not to press the accelerator when starting the engine as this would cause the engine to rev up, in turn, this will cause premature engine wear.

Due to technology always moving on, some cars no longer have a key to put into the switch to turn! Some just have a card that gets inserted into the dash, then a button is pressed to start the engine.

Once the engine has started, all warning lights should go out, with the exception of the handbrake warning light. Always a good idea to check the fuel level too!