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**DS Driving School Terms & Conditions**

**Lessons and tests:**

• You must inform your instructor if there is any reason why you cannot drive safely or legally. This includes the loss of your valid driving licence, and includes but is not limited to, being under the influence of drink or drugs, including prescribed medication that may affect your ability to drive.

• Please ensure that you are medically fit to drive. If you have any medical condition and you are not sure if your ability to drive is affected, please speak with your doctor and the DVLA to report any notifiable medical condition.

• You must be able to read a number plate from a distance of 20.5 metres.

• Your instructor reserves the right to refuse to take you to your driving test if you haven't told them when your driving test is and therefore, they are unavailable, if you haven't moved your driving test date when they advised you to, or if they believe you are not up to test standard and therefore, unsafe to be driving their tuition car by yourself on test. Your instructor will discuss this within plenty of time and discuss the options available to you.

• If your instructor books your test for you, the test will belong to DS Driving School and we reserve the right to cancel your test at any given time. Once you have paid for your test, the test will then belong to you, and we will only cancel or move it upon your request.

• Some learners prefer to do lessons in their own car. This is OK, however you must ensure your car is roadworthy, taxed, has a valid MOT, and is insured for you to drive. Please check your insurance allows your instructor to supervise you in your car. Some insurances will not allow instructors to supervise, or they may have a minimum age limit for the supervising driver. This is your responsibility to check, as if you were to be stopped by the police without an appropriate supervising driver, you may find your insurance invalid and/or you receiving points on your driving licence for driving without the correct supervision. Your instructor will do their best to prevent any accidents or damage to your car, however ultimately you are responsible for your car. If you are planning on doing your driving test in your own car, please check your insurance covers this – some don't.

**Cancellations & punctuality**

If you cancel your lesson with less than 48 hours notice, you will be liable for the cost of your lesson.

• When your instructor arrives for your lesson, they will text you and/or ring you. If you have still not arrived or contacted them within 15 minutes, your lesson will be cancelled and charged as above.

• If you are late for your lesson, your lesson time will be reduced as your instructor cannot be late for their next lesson. You will still be charged the full price of the lesson, as this is considered 'cancelling' part of your lesson with less than 48 hours notice.

• If your instructor is late to your lesson for reasons such as the above, you will still receive the full lesson time.

• If your instructor has to cancel your lesson through no fault of their own, for circumstances such as mechanical breakdown of the tuition car, bad weather which may affect your ability to learn safely, heavy traffic, or the previous pupil’s lesson or driving test has overrun for unavoidable reasons, and it means they cannot arrive at your lesson within good time, they will rearrange your lesson for the next available, mutually convenient, date and time.

• If your instructor feels your behaviour or attitude whilst driving is threatening, dangerous, or compromises safety, they reserve the right to cancel the lesson in progress and any future lessons.

**Payments & Refunds**

• Your hourly lesson rate is as agreed at the time of booking. Current lesson prices can be found on our website.

• We accept payments in the form of bank transfer

• Payments must be made up front in the same day when you are booking the lessons.

• We cannot issue a refund for any lessons already taken. If you are dissatisfied for any reason, please see the Complaints section below.

• If you have paid for a block booking and wish to discontinue lessons for any reason, your instructor can refund the remaining hours at the hourly price that you paid for them.

**First Lesson:**

Your instructor will ask on your first lesson to read a number plate from the required distance of 20m (with glasses or contact lenses if necessary) which is a mandatory requirement by Dvsa to be able to start your practical test. Please do this well before your first lesson. Failing to read a number plate on your first lesson, will result in your instructor stopping the lesson due to safety reasons and you will still be charged for that lesson.

**Data protection**

• In line with the GDPR, by you taking driving lessons with DS Driving School, you automatically consent and agree to us holding your personal information, such as:

- Name, address, contact information, and date of birth

- Driving licence number

- Records of driving progress

- Medical conditions that affect your ability to drive

- Driving test information

- Pictures taken during driving lessons or upon passing your test (with your permission)

- Receipts of payments

- Etc

• We hold your information in line with the Data Protection Act 1998 and GDPR rules.

• We hold your information for the purpose of being able to provide good quality driving lessons to you.

• Your instructor holds your information securely, which is either locked away securely, or secured on our phones, tablets, or computers which are all password protected.

• Your information is stored on the Total Drive app which is kept secure. We use Total Drive to book your lessons, store your contact information, record lesson progress and information, record payments etc.

• We can assure you that we do not pass your information on to anyone without your prior permission and agreement. If there is a need to share your information (such as changing driving instructors and sending your progress to them, booking tests on your behalf with the DVSA etc.), we will inform you first, explain who we are sharing the information with, why we are sharing the information, and ensure that you give us your consent and permission.

• Every instructor has dash cams which are always recording external footage and audio for the protection of yourself, the instructor and the public. If your instructor wishes to use any recorded lesson footage for other uses (such as training aids), you will be asked to sign a form.

• You have the right to see any information we hold about you.

• You have the right to ask us to destroy any information we hold about you.

• Once you pass your driving test, or if you wish to discontinue lessons with us for any reason:

* Any progress booklets will be given back to you where possible or kept for 5 years before being destroyed.
* DS Driving School is registered with the Information Commissioners Office, reference ZB285306

**Accidents and the law:**

• Your instructor will make every effort to avoid damage and accidents, and we do anticipate that accidents may happen as you are learning to drive, however if they believe you were driving in a dangerous manner or ignoring their instructions and actual damage is caused to the tuition car, you may be expected to contribute towards the repairs cost (ie. tyres).

• Your instructor will make every effort to avoid you breaking the law or committing any traffic offence – you are under their close supervision during every lesson and they may use verbal or physical control such as giving verbal instruction, taking the steering wheel or using the dual control pedals where necessary to avoid dangerous situations or accidents. However, your instructor and DS Driving School cannot accept any responsibility of you breaking the law – this includes speeding, traffic offences, regulations, or laws that you could break whilst driving. Any fines or penalties are legally the sole responsibility of the driver. It is an offence on your instructor's part if they fail to give the driver’s details to the police when asked to provide information as to who was driving at the time of an offence. It is important that you are aware of your legal responsibilities as a driver. If you have any queries, please do get in touch with us.

• All of our DS Driving School instructors have Public Liability and Professional Indemnity insurance.

**Complaints:**

• We hope that you are happy with your driving lessons and instructor, however if you would like to raise a complaint, your first step would be to contact your driving instructor to see if you can resolve it between yourself and your instructor.

• Should you not feel able to talk to your instructor, or are not satisfied with the outcome, please contact Dan at DS Driving School on 07442500761. Dan will do his best to resolve the situation or can signpost you to the appropriate place if you are still not satisfied.

**Why choose DS:**

We offer experienced and passionate driving instructors who genuinely care about supporting you to learn to drive and develop your skills. Our instructors have had many hours of training We offer affordable prices and are well known and reputable in our local area. We can support pupils with different needs, and we're always honest with you. We will always be easy to contact if you need us and will always support you with anything you need - whether it's theory support, practical driving lessons, or something else. We'd love for you to have a lesson with one of our instructors to see how you feel - and we'd be delighted if you are happy and wish to continue learning to drive with us! But we won't be offended if you choose to learn to drive somewhere else - we appreciate that not every instructor suits every pupil. If you feel your instructor is not best suited to your needs, please contact us - we may be able to offer you lessons with a different instructor from DS Driving School, or we may be able to recommend another local instructor!