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Diverse Road Safety - a driving school with a difference.

Tina Preston has conquered her disability to set up a specialist driving school aimed at vulnerable road users.

In 2007, Tina Preston was fit and healthy, working as a specialist Driving Instructor and ADI Trainer, It never occurred to her that one day soon she would be in a wheelchair. After a sudden illness, her health deteriorated, she was diagnosed with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, now she suffers from severe pain, chronic fatigue and discomfort almost constantly.

As her own health deteriorated, she realised the need for a service for disabled and vulnerable road users and wanted to offer them practical solutions. With the help of colleagues Jo Webster, and Amanda Smith, they established Diverse Road Safety, a not-for-profit Community Interest Company.

We aim to give the most vulnerable people their independence through mobility, Diverse Road Safety truly is a unique driving school. We provide driver training to people who find driving more of a challenge.



This includes :

- people with learning difficulties / hidden disabilities (dyslexia, dyspraxia, ADHD)
- people with physical impairments / disabilities
- people with limiting illnesses / conditions (including deafness)
- older drivers who want refresher training to improve their safety, confidence and independence
- younger drivers (including pre-driver group training from aged 14 upwards)

We understand that everyone has individual needs, and we will go at the pace best suited to them. Our instructors will:

- clearly and calmly explain what the driver needs to do at each stage of driving
- help them to learn from their mistakes – this is an important part of the learning process
- build their confidence on the road, help with spatial awareness & dealing with other drivers
- cover all the essentials of driving and more.

We have a range of vehicles to suit everyone – manual, automatic, and fully-adapted for teaching people with disabilities / amputations.

Diverse Road Safety believe that with the right training and guidance, most people – whatever their ability, are able to learn how to drive and gain the independence and confidence they deserve.





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Diverse Road Safety present 'DriveAbility'

We believe that with the right training and guidance, most people are able to learn how to drive and gain more independence and confidence. At Diverse Road Safety, we have highly qualified and understanding instructors to take you through the learning process.

We offer driving training, whatever your ability, we call it 'DriveAbility'. It is for people who

- are physically disabled, or have restricted mobility
- are returning to driving after an accident or illness, or have deteriorating health
- have conditions which can affect your learning such as Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, ADHD,
- are deaf or hard of hearing

Physically disabled / Restricted mobility

If you are physically disabled or have restricted mobility, you may still be able to drive.

Even though aids and adaptations for vehicles are now widely available, there is little or no training given for their use.



So if you want

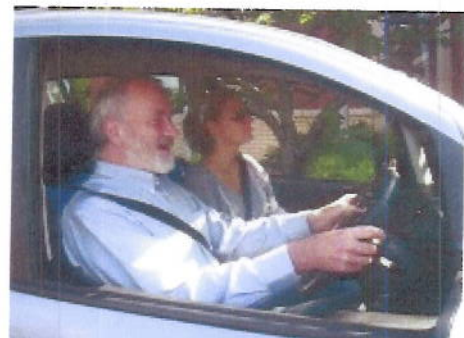
- to take lessons for the first time as a disabled road user, or
 - a short series of lessons to fully understand your newly adapted car
- we can help you. We have adapted cars to suit most abilities.

Adapted cars are suitable for people of any age or experience with a variety of different illnesses or impairments. We can also train you in your own adapted vehicle - whether it's a Motability vehicle or not.

Accident / Illness / Deteriorating health

Having an accident, serious illness or deteriorating health can change your whole life and affect your ability to drive. This can be a worrying time, and leave you uncertain about the best way forward.

Diverse Road Safety can offer you the help you need.



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Our highly qualified and understanding instructors can

- do an assessment of your driving and give you the appropriate advice about any aids / adaptations you may need
- give you practical help and advice to improve your independence and mobility
- help you regain your confidence driving.

If you have issues affecting your health, but have never driven before, it is still possible to learn. Diverse Road Safety can help you learn to drive for the first time, and even take you onto private land if you don't yet have a provisional licence.

Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, ADHD

Dyslexia, Dyspraxia and ADHD can affect people in different ways. Learning new skills like driving, can be difficult without the right teacher.

At Diverse Road Safety, we understand that you have individual needs.

We will adapt the learning to your needs by using:

- demonstrations, pictures or word pictures
- bite-sized, manageable chunks of information
- pedal-sharing (if necessary) to allow you to go at your own pace
- a considerate and patient approach that suits you
- handouts and on-line materials to help you learn.



We can also help you with any special arrangements that you may need with your theory or practical tests.

Learners with dyslexia, dyspraxia or ADHD can often excel in areas that others struggle in. With the right training tailored to your needs, you could be an excellent driver.

Deaf / Hard of hearing

Being deaf or hard of hearing will not stop you from learning how to drive.

At Diverse Road Safety, we have well-trained and understanding instructors who can teach you to drive with the kind of support that you need.

Our instructors are trained to use

- British Sign Language (BSL)
- visual aids, eye contact, visual learning
- any other relevant tools / aids – depending on the communication method you prefer

to help you to acquire excellent driving skills.



Being deaf, hard of hearing or having impaired hearing shouldn't make a difference to your ability to drive - if you have the right teacher.



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