

Warwickshire learners face 18-week test waits, says Crystal Driving School

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WARWICK, WARWICKSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM, August 30, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Warwickshire learner drivers face rising costs and 18-week test waits as demand shifts to automatic tuition, reports Crystal Driving School

Getting behind the wheel across Warwick, Leamington Spa and the wider Warwickshire region has changed markedly over the past six years. Driven by mounting financial pressure, prolonged post-pandemic test backlogs and tightening safety regulation, novice drivers are spending more and waiting longer to secure their road independence, with many now turning to [automatic driving lessons in Warwick](#) to shorten the process.

New industry data and historical trends from 2016 to 2026 show how learner behaviour has moved from casual post-17 licensing to a technology-driven journey dominated by automatic vehicle adoption and mandatory telematics insurance.

A decade of change: how learner habits have shifted (2016 to 2026)

2016 to 2019, the pre-pandemic baseline: Younger generations stabilised their licensing timelines after years of delay, with lower car ownership in urban centres as ride-sharing expanded. Gradual vehicle safety improvements and early telematics adoption steadily reduced young driver accident rates, while entry costs remained manageable compared with current benchmarks.

2020 to 2023, the pandemic backlog: Lockdowns halted practical and theory tests, sparking a



Bally Uppal, an experienced driving instructor with Crystal Driving School

multi-year gridlock that pushed Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) centres to their 24-week waiting-list caps. Despite the freeze on full licences, provisional applications surged, with survey research suggesting nearly 90% of Gen Z drivers reaffirmed the need for car ownership amid concerns about public transport.

2024 to 2026, financial strain and regulatory tightening: Young motorists now face steep running costs. Across the UK, the average annual insurance premium for an 18 to 25-year-old sits at around £2,217, with London

exceeding £3,100, pushing more than 60% into telematics ("black box" or app-monitored) agreements, according to industry price indices from Confused.com and WTW. DVSA figures show theory test pass rates falling to a record low of 45% despite 2.59 million sittings, while Department for Transport casualty data indicates 17 to 24-year-olds still account for roughly 20% of road casualties yet only 6% to 7% of licence holders.

“

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Bally Uppal, Crystal Driving School

well in advance.

DVSA test-centre data for the Warwick centre (Wedgnock House) puts the median wait for a practical slot at roughly 18 weeks, pushing learners to book far ahead or rely on intensive preparation. The centre's overall pass rate sits at 48.5%, with automatic car tests recording 43.8%.

Local learners face a distinctive mix of driving environments, from Warwick's narrow historic centre and busy gyratories to high-speed merging on the A46 dual carriageway and rural lanes towards Leek Wootton, Kenilworth and Barford.



Driving Lessons Across Kenilworth

The shift to automatic tuition and early EV preparation

To ease test anxiety, cut total tuition hours and prepare for the UK's move to electrification, learners across CV31, CV32 and CV34 are increasingly choosing [automatic and electric vehicle tuition](#).

"The past six years have completely changed how pupils approach learning to drive in Warwickshire," said Bally Uppal of Crystal Driving School. "Between 18-week test waits and high insurance quotes, pupils can no longer afford to take tests unprepared. We have seen a sharp rise in demand for automatic and intensive courses, because learners want to remove gear and clutch anxiety, pass first time and get on the road safely."

Crystal Driving School provides DVSA-approved, one-to-one automatic tuition, intensive fast-track courses and electric vehicle orientation drives across Warwick, Leamington Spa and surrounding communities.

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