

# Street SMART Road SAFE



**TOP TIPS FOR STREET SMART KIDS.  
KEY STAGE 2**

Road Safe NI have developed this book for children in Northern Ireland, following in the footsteps of the Department for Transport in GB.

Almost every child in Northern Ireland uses the road and it is our mission to reach out to all children and young people to teach them about road safety, so that they are safe when out and about.

We hope the book will provide you with the knowledge and tools you need to play your part in road safety. It will teach you all you need to know and help you to become teachers for your family, your friends and your community so that we can all be safer on the roads.

You will find important topics on The Green Cross Code, pedestrian crossings, cycle safety and in-car safety in this book. You will also get insight into the meaning of various road signs and road markings. The book is very easy to follow and it might just save your life one day.

***'To the world you may be one person;  
but to one person you may be the world.'***  
**Dr. Seuss**

We at RoadSafe NI Charity hope you enjoy the book and learn enough to always stay safe on our roads.

*This book is based on the Department of Transport GB edition of Tales of the Road <https://www.think.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Tales-of-the-Road.pdf> and has been adapted by Road Safe NI for Northern Ireland.*

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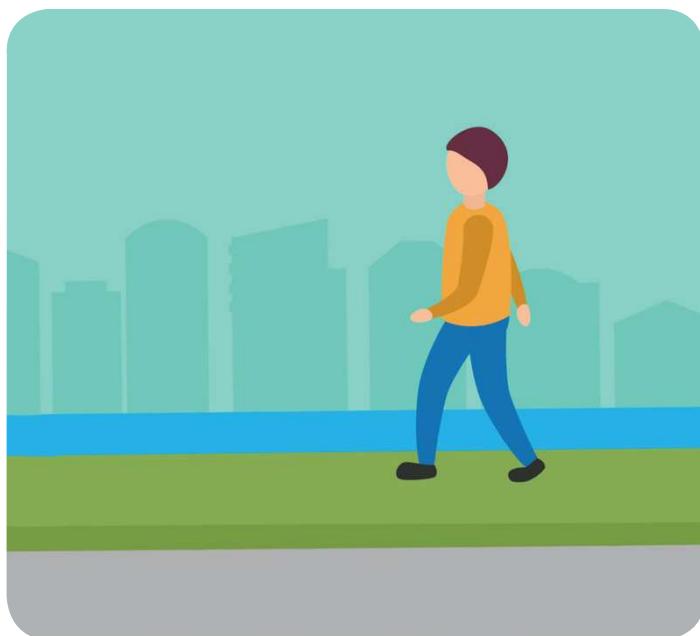
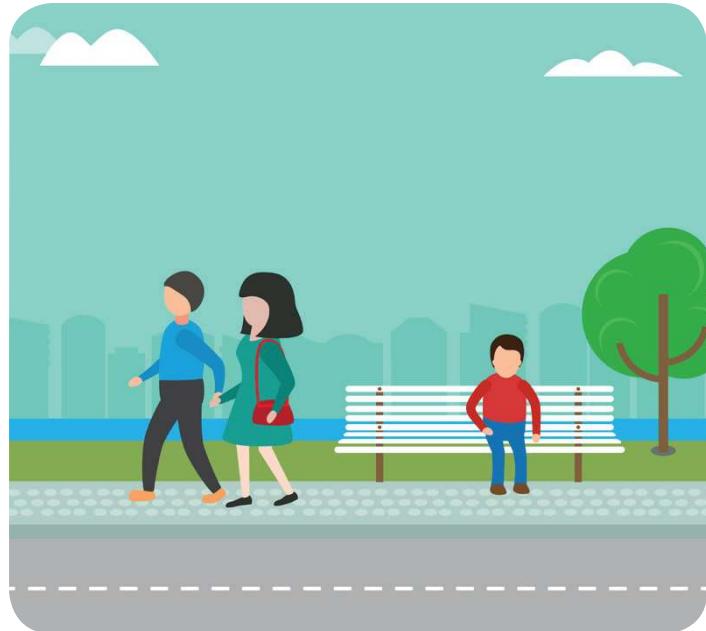
# Walking

## When walking...

Where there is a **footpath**, use it.

Take care when crossing **cycle lanes** on the road. Cyclists may be travelling quietly but can be faster than other **traffic**.

If you are looking after someone younger than you, always hold their hand when on or near the road.



When there is no footpath, walk on the right hand side of the road to face the **traffic** coming towards you.

On narrow roads or if there is a lot of traffic, walk in single-file. Take particular care approaching right-hand bends - it may be safer to cross over to the left-hand side until you get past the bend before crossing back over.

Take special care if you cannot see the road very far ahead.

## Be **SAFE, BE SEEN!**

Help other road users to see you.  
Remember, bright or fluorescent by day,  
reflective by night.



Bright or **fluorescent** materials make it much easier for other road users to see pedestrians in daylight and at dusk

**Reflective** materials make pedestrians stand out at night or in poor light.

### 4 Walking

# The Green Cross Code

The steps you need to follow to cross the road safely.

1

**First find a safe place to cross**...and where there is space to reach the **footpath** on the other side.

Where there is a crossing nearby, use it. It is safer to cross using a **pedestrian subway**, a **footbridge**, a **pedestrian island**, a **zebra**, **pelican**, **toucan** or **puffin crossing**, or where there is a crossing point controlled by a police officer or a **school crossing patrol**.



Otherwise choose a place where you can see clearly in all directions. Try to avoid crossing between parked cars, on a **blind bend** or close to the **brow of a hill**. Move to a space where drivers and riders can see you clearly. Do not cross the road diagonally.

2

**Stop just before you get to the kerb**... where you can see if anything is coming. Do not get too close to the traffic. If there is no pavement, keep back from the edge of the road but make sure you can still see approaching **traffic**.



3

**Look all around for traffic and listen...** Traffic could come from any direction.

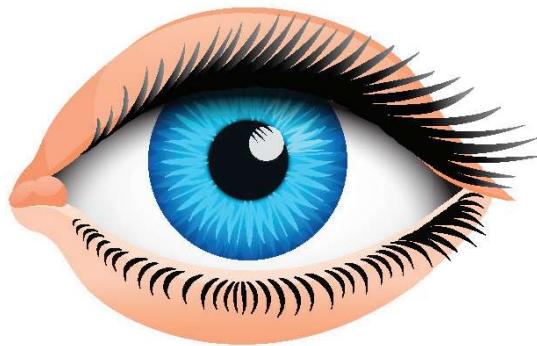
Keep listening because you can sometimes hear traffic before you see it.



4

**If traffic is coming let it pass...** Look all around again and keep listening.

Do not cross until there is no traffic and you are certain there is plenty of time.



Remember, even if traffic is a long way off, it may be approaching very quickly.

5

**When it is safe, go straight across the road - do not run...** Do not walk diagonally across the road.

Look out for cyclists and motorcyclists travelling between lanes of traffic.



6

**Keep looking and listening for traffic while you cross...** in case there is any traffic you did not see, or in case other traffic appears suddenly.

6 **Walking**



# The Green Cross Code

- 1** Find a safe place to cross.
- 2** Stop just before you get to the kerb.
- 3** Look all around for traffic and listen.
- 4** If traffic is coming, let it pass.
- 5** When it is safe, go straight across the road – do not run.
- 6** Keep looking and listening while you cross.

## Parked Vehicles

### Try not to cross in between parked vehicles.

But if there is nowhere else to cross:

- Choose a place where there is a space between two vehicles. Make sure there is a gap between any parked vehicles on the other side of the road, so that you can reach the **footpath** on the other side.
- Make sure neither car is about to move off – look for drivers in the cars, car lights and listen for engines

running. Never cross the road in front of or behind any **vehicle** with the engine running.

- Do not cross near large vehicles. You could be standing in a blind spot, where the driver cannot see you.
- Walk to the outside edge of the cars and stop. Here you are more likely to be seen by drivers and you can look all around for traffic.
- Use the **Green Cross Code**. When the road is clear, cross. Remember to keep looking and listening as you go.



## Using a crossing with traffic lights

**Pelican crossings** have a box with a red and green man, which is on the opposite side of the road to you. Push the control button to activate the traffic signals. When the red man shows, do not cross. When a steady green man shows and the traffic has stopped, you can start to cross. Remember to keep looking and listening while you cross. When the green man begins to flash, you **should not** start to cross. If you have already started you should have time to finish crossing safely.

**Puffin crossings** are slightly different, as the red and green man are on the control box on your side of the road and the green man does not flash.

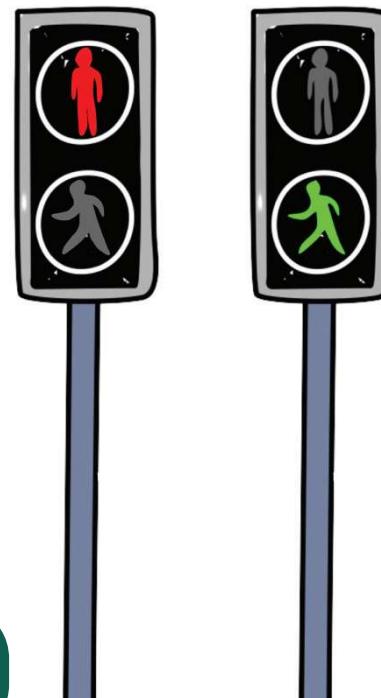
When the green man disappears, there could be:

- a red man signal
- no signal

Do not start to cross if the steady green man is not showing.

## REMEMBER!

- Some green men will only work if a **pedestrian** pushes the control button.
- You may have to wait. Be patient.
- Cross the road quickly between the lines of studs. **Do not run.**
- Some crossings have an island in the middle of the road. Treat each half of the crossing as a separate crossing; press the control button and wait for the green man.



This is a pelican crossing

# Zebra Crossing

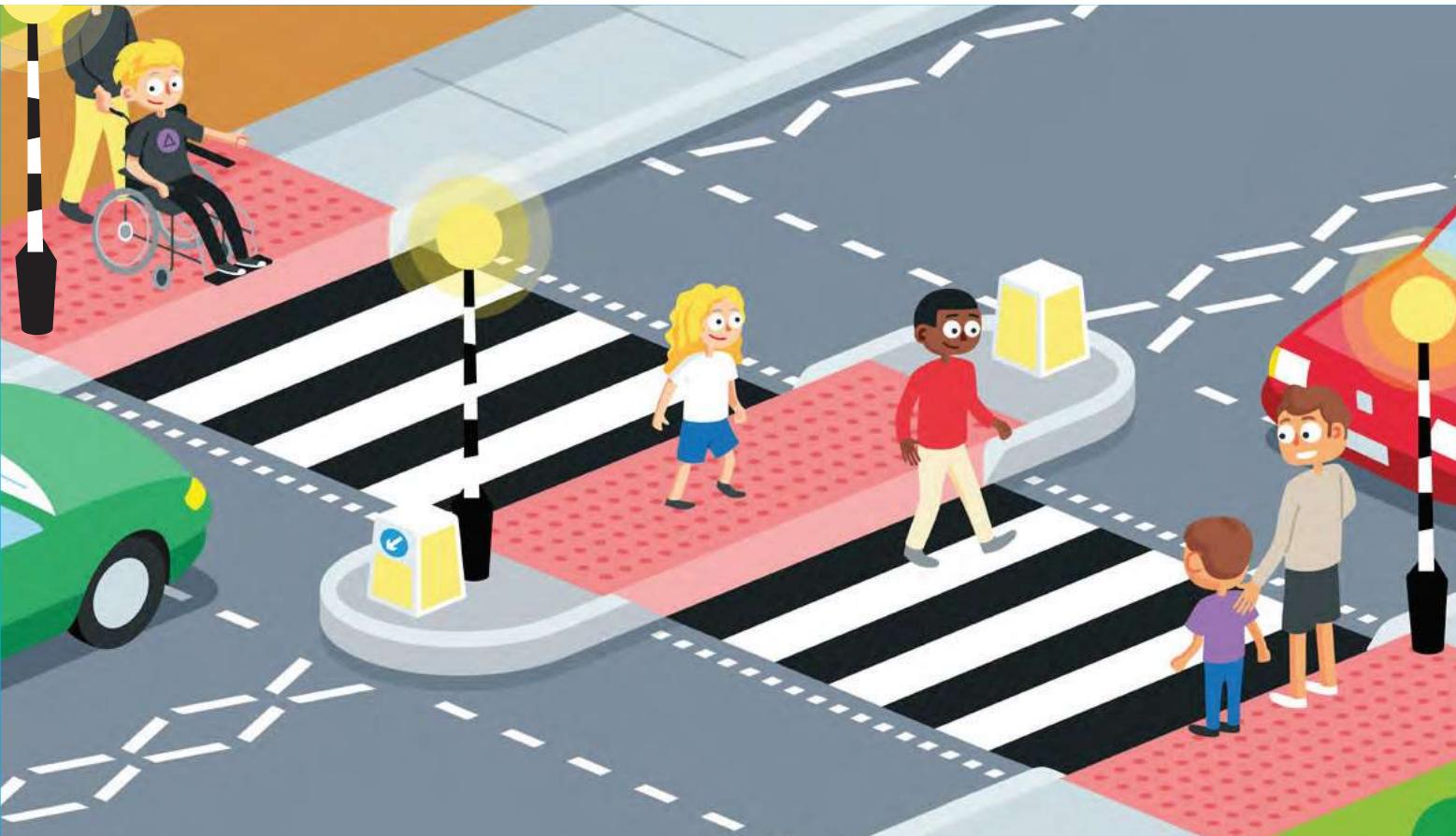
## Crossing at a zebra crossing.

- If there is a zebra crossing, use it.
- Wait on the pavement near the kerb and give traffic plenty of time to see you and to stop before you start to cross.
- Drivers need plenty of time to slow down, especially in wet or icy weather when the road is slippery.
- After traffic has stopped from both directions, walk across on the black and white stripes.
- Keep looking all round and listening in case a driver or rider has not seen you and attempts to overtake a vehicle that has stopped.

## Crossing where there is an island in the middle of a zebra crossing.

Use the Green Cross Code to cross to the island. Stop there and use the code again to cross the second half of the road. Remember to look all around and listen. Watch out for drivers or riders who have not seen you and attempt to overtake the vehicle that has stopped.

If there is an island then treat each half of the crossing as separate crossings. Do not assume that vehicles will stop. Check that they have stopped before crossing.



## Crossing at a junction

If you have to cross at a road **junction**, look out and listen for traffic turning into the road, especially from behind you.



## School crossing patrols or police

When school crossing patrols or police officers are controlling the traffic, wait until they signal to you to cross the road. Always cross in front of them so they can see you at all times.



## Crossing one-way streets

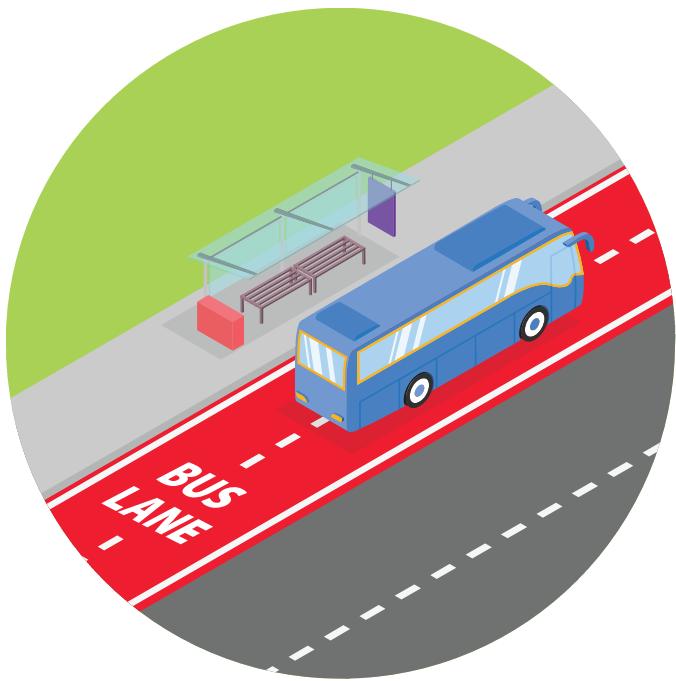
Use the **Green Cross Code** when crossing one-way streets. Check which way the traffic is moving but **ALWAYS** look and listen for traffic coming from both right and left. If there is more than one **lane** of traffic, do not cross until it is safe to cross the whole road without stopping.

## Pedestrian safety barriers

Where there are barriers, cross the road only at the gaps provided for pedestrians and use the **Green Cross Code**. Do not climb over the barriers or walk between them and the road.

## Crossing bus lanes

In **bus lanes**, buses may go faster than other traffic and in some places across the UK, buses can travel in the opposite direction to the other traffic. Cyclists, motorcyclists emergency vehicles and taxis may also be using the **bus lane** so take special care when crossing them.



# Railway level crossings

## Always obey the instructions shown.

There are many kinds of crossings:

- They may have gates, full barriers, half barriers or none of these.
- There may also be warning lights, yodel or alarms.

You **MUST NOT** go past the lights when the red lights are flashing. Also, do not cross if an alarm is sounding or the barriers are being lowered.

Always wait behind the STOP line. Never go past a barrier that is down.

Remember, if the lights continue to flash or the alarm sound/spoken warning continues after a train is gone, another train is coming. It is not safe to cross until the lights go out.

If there are no lights showing, alarm sounds or barriers, you should still stop, look and listen to make sure it is safe to cross.



**Look out for these signs:**



1. Level crossing with barrier or gate ahead.



2. Level crossing without barrier or gate ahead.



3. Level crossing without gate or barrier.

# Rollerblading, Scooting or Skating

## When rollerblading, scooting or skating...

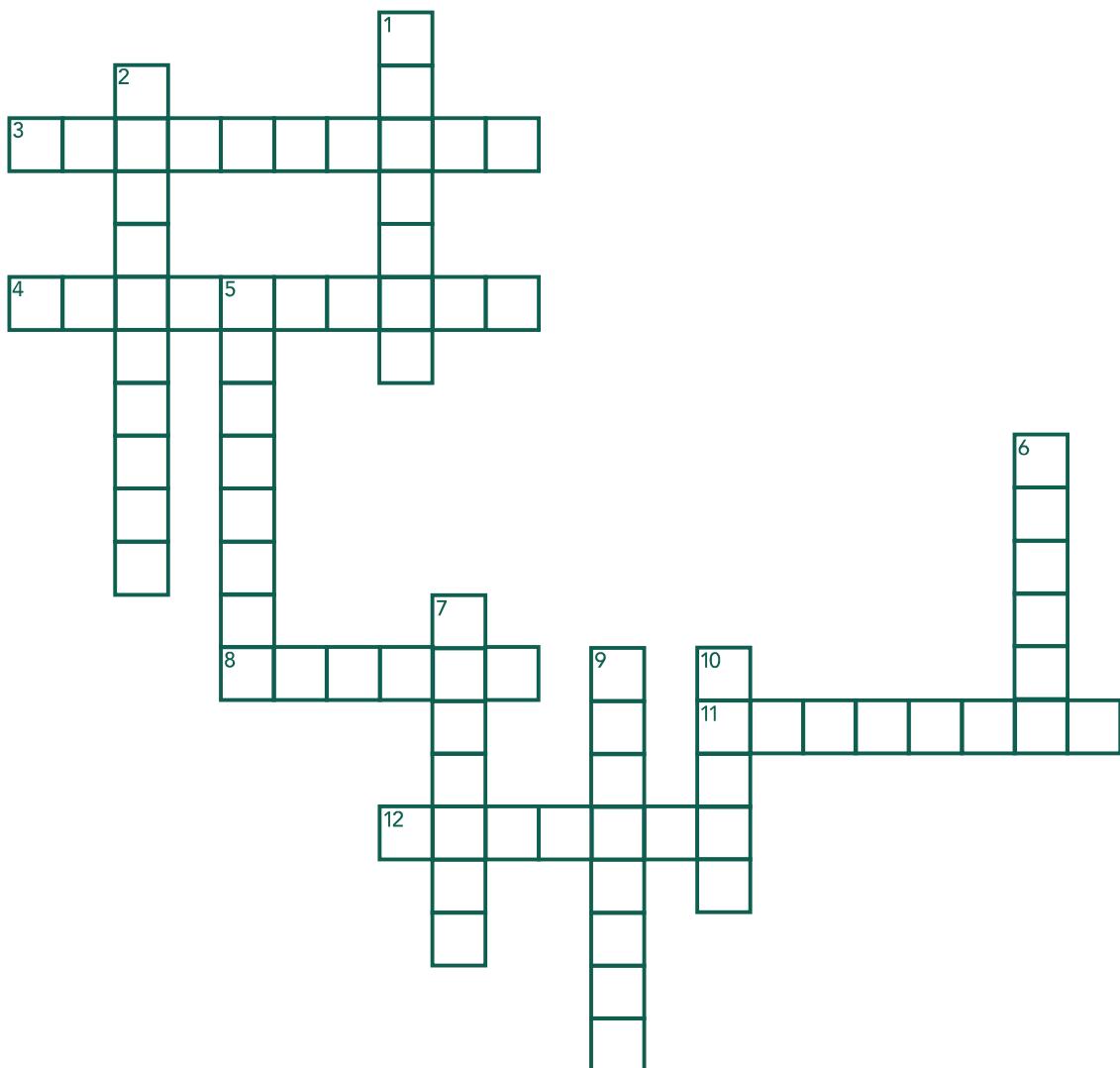
Make sure you do so safely and without causing a nuisance to others.

- Use the **footpath**, and where possible use playgrounds, parks or special areas provided.
- Avoid busy areas and always take care near other pedestrians, particularly young children and the elderly.
- Look out for signs – rollerblading, skating or scooting may be banned on certain footpaths and in certain areas.

Do not rollerblade, scoot or skate across the road. If you need to cross the road hold onto your scooter or skateboard and walk across the road. Always use the **Green Cross Code** when crossing.



# ACTIVITY 1 CROSSWORD



## ACROSS

- 3. Is this an angry junction. (10)
- 4. This road user is not in a vehicle. (10)
- 8. Pair of tins for this crossing. (6)
- 11. An American sidewalk. (8)
- 12. A tricycle minus one. (7)

## DOWN

- 1. Vehicles and people moving on the road. (7)
- 2. Not exactly. (10)
- 5. Does this hold the chairs trousers up. (8)
- 6. Is this bird out of breath. (6)
- 7. Making your way on foot. (7)
- 9. Meeting place for roads. (8)
- 10. This kills. (5)

**How did you do?**

Check your answers at [www.roadsafeni](http://www.roadsafeni)

# Cycling

## Your bike - Check it out

Make sure your cycle is safe to ride – Remember **ABCD**:

**AIR** - check your tyres (for air and tread).

**BRAKES** - test both front and rear brakes individually, then together.

**CHAIN** - should be kept lubricated.

**DROP** - drop your cycle from about 6cms above the ground onto its wheels and listen for any noise made by loose nuts, etc.

When you have to carry anything on your cycle, use a bike bag or basket. Make sure you do not wear any loose clothing so that nothing can get caught in the chain or wheels.

In Northern Ireland it is a legal requirement to have a bell fitted on your bicycle.

### Before you set off

Always wear a cycle helmet that is the correct size and securely fastened – it will help to protect your head if you fall off.

Help other road users to see you. Wear light coloured or **fluorescent** clothing in daylight and at dusk, and something reflective at night.



Do not ride a bike that is too big or small as it can affect your balance.

### Cycling in the dark

Wear reflective clothing and/or a reflective backpack or accessories (belt, arm or ankle bands) in the dark.

Before setting off make sure your lights are clean and are working. The lights **MUST** be lit at night.

At night your cycle **MUST** have a white front light and a red rear light, and they **MUST** be lit. Your cycle **MUST** be fitted with a red reflector at the back.

Remember if you have a dynamo on your bike your lights can go out when you stop.

## On your bike



Before you get on your bike look all around for traffic. Before starting off, turning right or left, overtaking, or stopping, you must look behind (and signal where necessary by giving a clear arm signal to show other road users what you intend to do). Only move off, change position on the road, or make a turn when it is safe to do so.

Always keep both hands on the handlebar unless you are signalling or changing gears.

Be particularly careful near large vehicles like lorries and buses. The drivers may not be able to see you.

Do not ride in the space between the vehicle and the **kerb**, (unless you are in a designated cycle lane), and take particular care for vehicles turning across your path to reach side roads or driveways on the left.

When turning from one road into another, pedestrians who are crossing the road have **priority**, so **give way**.

### REMEMBER!

Use your eyes and ears all the time.



You **MUST** obey traffic light signals and road signs and the signals made by police officers or school crossing patrols.

You **MUST NOT** hold on to a moving **vehicle** or trailer.

You **MUST NOT** carry a **passenger** on your cycle unless your cycle has been built or adapted to carry one.

You should never lead an animal while cycling.

**NEVER**  
ride more than two **abreast**. Ride in a **single file** on narrow or busy roads and when riding round bends.

Traffic can be unpredictable, so watch out for **vehicles** doing unexpected things.

If you want to turn right from a busy road, it may be safer to stop on the left hand side before or after the road **junction** and wait for a safe gap in the traffic before walking with your cycle across the road.

## Parking your cycle

Always park your cycle thoughtfully so that it is not in the way of other people. It is best to use a cycle stand if there is one. Secure it well so that it will not fall over and become an obstruction or hazard.

Lock it to prevent it being stolen and have the frame marked with your postcode.

## Cycling near animals

Be careful when cycling near animals. Give them plenty of room as you go by.

Do not scare them by sounding your bell or horn – they could injure someone.

## Cycling routes and crossings

Where available, always use routes away from busy roads. In some areas special cycle routes, tracks and **lanes** are provided.

## Pedestrian Crossing

You **MUST** stop for **pedestrians** at **zebra crossings**.

You **MUST** stop for the red light at **traffic lights** including those at crossings.



**These signs show the different routes:**



Recommended route for pedal cycles.



Route to be used by pedal cycles only.



Route for pedestrians and pedal cyclists only.



Segregated pedal cycle & pedestrian route.



With-flow pedal cycle lane.

## Bus lanes

Only cycle in bus lanes if there is a cycle shown on the sign.

Watch out for people getting on or off a bus. Be very careful when overtaking a bus or leaving a bus lane as you will be entering a busier traffic flow. Do not pass between a **kerb** and a bus when it is at a stop or signalling.



## REMEMBER!

Look after your bike and make sure it is safe. Make sure you are dressed in the right clothes:

- Light, bright, **fluorescent** reflective clothes.
- A correctly fitted helmet.

Make sure you can always see clearly and hear well.



## Roundabouts

At **roundabouts** get off your cycle and walk on the **footpath** or verge if you feel unsafe. If you decide to ride round, you should **give way** to traffic coming from your right. Keep to the left hand lane. Be aware that drivers might not easily see you.

Take extra care when cycling across exits, you may need to signal right to show you are not leaving the roundabout. Watch out for vehicles crossing your path to leave or join the roundabout.

Give plenty of room to long vehicles on the roundabout as they need more space to manoeuvre. Do not ride in the space they need to get round the roundabout. It may be safer to wait until they have cleared the roundabout.



# ACTIVITY 2 ANAGRAM

All answers are road safety related.

- 1. FA HOTPOT (8)**
- 2. DENI PEGS (8)**
- 3. ADRIEN PEST (10)**
- 4. AFRO STAYED (10)**
- 5. AD SURGEON (9)**
- 6. MARTY WOO (8)**
- 7. CHET CLEM ELY (11)**
- 8. CONCORDE EGRESS (14)**

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**How did you do?**

Check your answers at [www.roadsafeni](http://www.roadsafeni)

# Travelling in Cars

## Seat belts

Seat belts **MUST** be worn at all times.

Children under the age of 12 and under 135cm in height **MUST** use the correct child seat, booster seat or booster cushion suitable for their height and weight and fitted to the manufacturer's instructions.



## Travelling in the car

- Do not block the driver's view in the mirror.
- Never lean or wave out of the window or throw / hang anything out.
- Only open doors or windows when it is safe to do so.
- Keep your hands away from door handles while the car is moving.



## Getting in or out of the car

When you get in and out of the car, use the door on the pavement side. Only get out when you are sure it is safe.



# Using Buses

When you wait for a bus, stand on the **footpath**, well back from the traffic. It is dangerous to play around at bus stops.

Wait for people to get off the bus before you get on.

Follow the driver's instructions and do not distract them.

If you do need to cross the road after getting off the bus, wait for it to move away first so that the driver can see you, and you can see approaching traffic.



## REMEMBER!

- Always be aware of what is happening around you.
- Make sure you can be seen by wearing hi-visibility materials.
- Drivers need to concentrate on what they are doing.  
Make sure that you do not distract the driver, no matter what vehicle you are travelling in.
- Where there are seat belts always use them.

# Animals on the Road

## Riding horses or ponies

All horses and ponies should be properly shod. Check that the saddle and bridle fit well and are in good condition.

Make sure you can control your horse. If your horse is nervous in traffic always ride with other less nervous horses. Never ride a horse without both a saddle and a bridle.

Before riding off or turning, always look left, right and behind you to see if it is safe. If necessary, give a clear arm signal and move off with both hands on the reins.

Avoid **roundabouts** wherever possible. If you have to use one, you should keep to the left and watch out for **vehicles** crossing your path to leave or join the roundabout.

Signal right when riding across exits to show that you are not leaving. Signal left to show your intention to leave the roundabout.

When you lead a horse, always keep yourself between it and the traffic.

Make sure other road users can see you in the day and at night. Fit a

**fluorescent** or reflective tail guard and leg bands to your horse and wear light coloured or fluorescent clothing in daylight and reflective clothing if you have to ride at night or in poor visibility.

It is safer not to ride at night or in poor visibility. But if you do, a light which shows white to the front and red to the rear should be fitted, with bands to the rider's right arm and/ or leg/riding boot. When leading a horse at night, carry a light in your right hand.



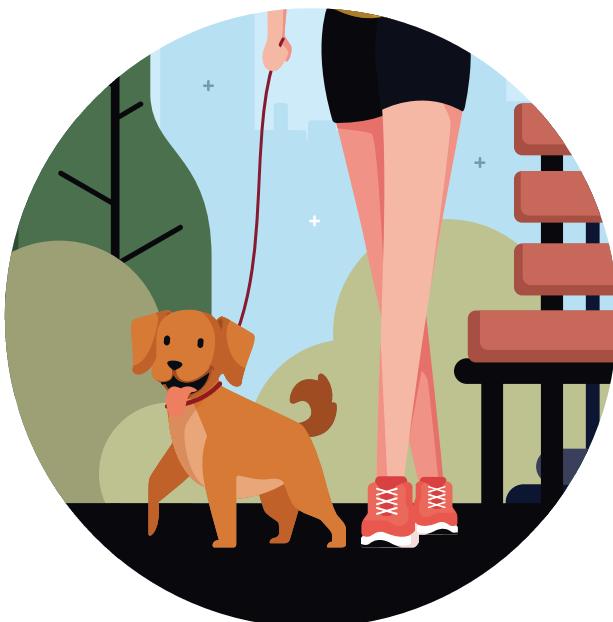
If you are under 14 years old you **MUST** wear an approved safety helmet, which **MUST** be fastened securely. Other riders should also wear a helmet. You should wear boots or shoes with hard soles and heels.



## REMEMBER!

- Make sure you and your animal are safe.
- Be aware of other road users.
- Do not take your animal somewhere that will frighten it.

### Taking care of dogs



Do not let your dog out on its own. Keep it on a short lead when walking on the **footpath**, road or paths shared with cyclists or horse riders. Keep yourself between the dog and the traffic.

If you have a dog (or any other animal) in the car, make sure it is restrained so it cannot distract the driver or cause injury to you or themselves if there is a **collision**. Put the animal on a lead before getting out of the car.

# Road Signs

Always obey traffic light signals, road signs and the signals given by police officers and **school crossing patrols**. Learn the meaning of all road signs

and markings. Circular signs usually give orders, triangular signs usually give warnings, and rectangular signs give information

## Signs giving orders

**These signs are mostly circular.**

Those with blue circles usually tell you what you **MUST** do:



Keep left.



Keep right.



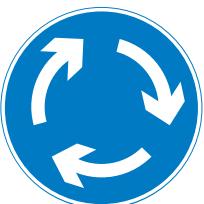
Turn left ahead.



Turn right ahead.



Ahead only.



Mini roundabout (give way to traffic from the right).

Signs with red circles tell you not to do something:



No cycling.



No right turn.



No entry to vehicles.



No motor vehicles.



No pedestrians.



**No vehicles**

No vehicles except pedal cycles being pushed.



Give way to traffic on major road.



Stop and give way.

These two signs **MUST** also be obeyed:

## Warning signs

These are mostly triangular.



Road works.



Slippery road.



Danger - words describe the danger.



Children going to or from school.



Steep hill downwards.



Crossroads.



Roundabout.



Uneven road.



Cycle route ahead.



Road narrows on both sides.



Traffic Signals.



Pedestrian Crossing.



Two way traffic straight ahead.

## Information Signs

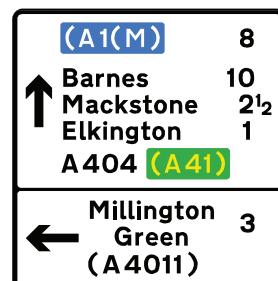
These are usually rectangular.



One way street



Recommended route for pedal cycles to place shown



On approaches to junctions



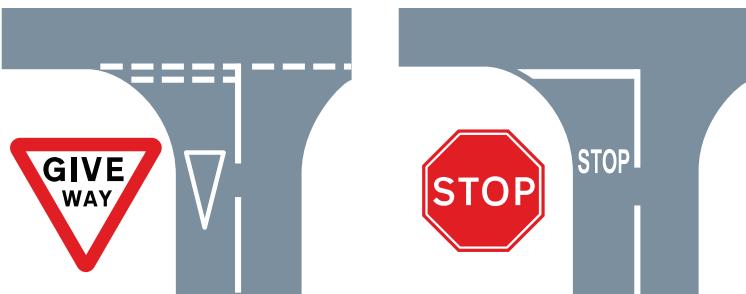
Tourist attraction



Route for pedestrians to place shown

# Road Markings

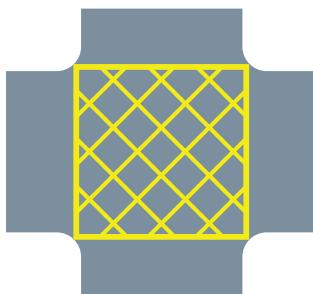
## Across the road



Give way to traffic on the major road

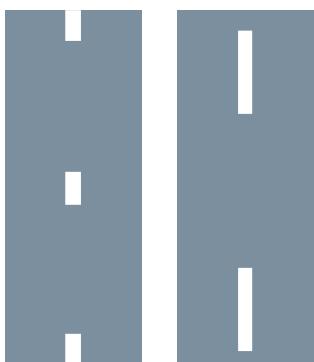
**STOP** at the STOP line

## Box junction



Do not enter the box unless your exit road or lane is clear, except to turn right

## Along the road



Lane line

Centre line

Hazard warning line



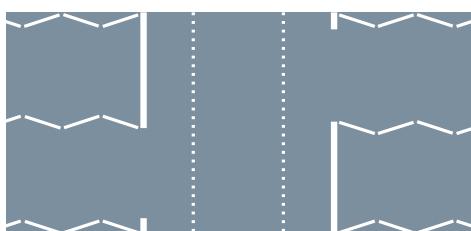
Drivers and riders **MUST NOT** cross double white lines



Drivers and riders **MUST NOT** cross solid line if it is on your side



Drivers and riders should not enter marked area unless it is necessary and safe to do so

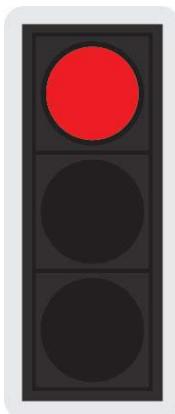


Pedestrian crossing zig zag lines. Vehicles **MUST NOT** overtake, wait or park in the zig zag areas. Pedestrians should not cross on the zig zag areas – they should always use the crossing itself.

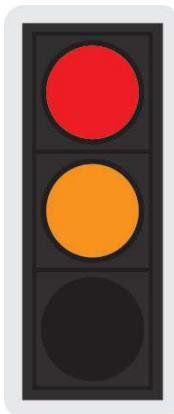


Vehicles **MUST NOT** stop on markings.

# Traffic Lights



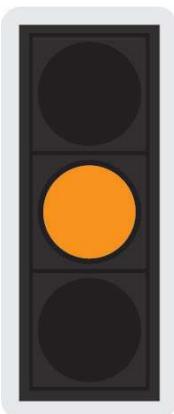
**RED** means 'Stop'. Wait behind the stop line on the carriage way.



**RED AND AMBER** also means 'Stop'. Do not pass through or start until GREEN shows.



**GREEN** means you may go on if the way is clear. Take special care if you intend to turn left or right and give way to pedestrians who are crossing.



**AMBER** means 'Stop' at the stop line.

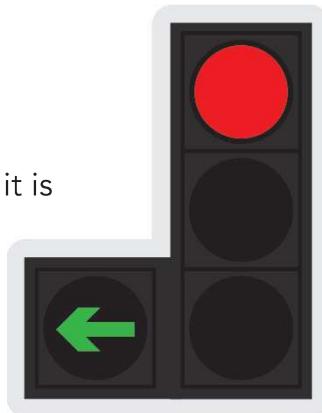


## Flashing Amber

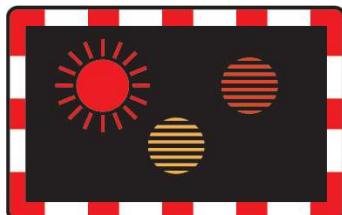
You **MUST** give way to **pedestrians** on the crossing. You may continue if there is nobody on the crossing.

## Green Arrow

You can go in the direction shown, if it is safe to do so. You can do this with any other lights showing.



## Flashing lights



Flashing lights mean you **MUST stop**. **Level crossings**, lifting bridges, airfields and fire stations are some of the places they appear

Flashing amber lights tell you there could be school children crossing ahead.



# Road Signals

## School crossing patrol



Not ready to cross pedestrians



Barrier to stop pedestrians crossing



Ready to cross pedestrians,  
vehicles **MUST** be prepared to stop



All vehicles **MUST** stop

## Signals given by motor vehicles



I intend to move out to the right or turn right.



I intend to move in to the left, turn left or stop to the left.

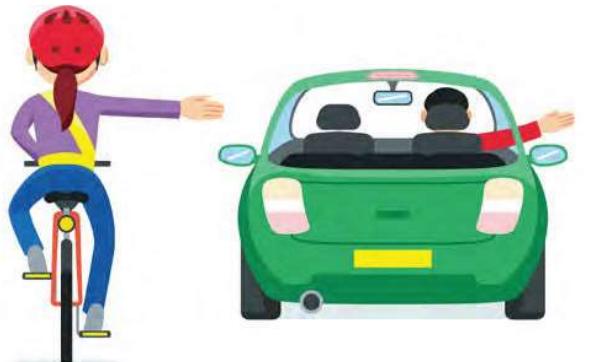


I am slowing down or stopping.



I am going to reverse.

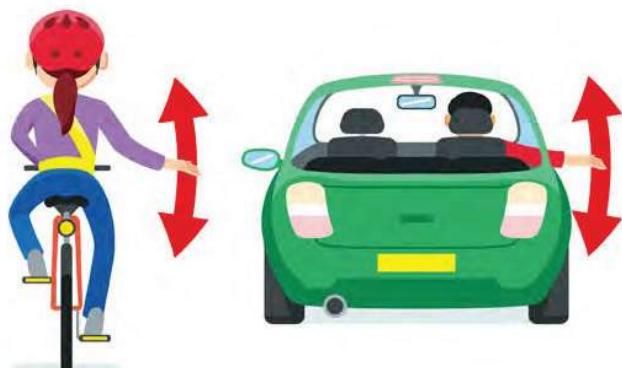
## Arm signals



I intend to move out to the right or turn right.



I intend to move in to the left or turn left.



I intend to slow down or stop (particularly useful at zebra crossings).

# GLOSSARY

Not sure what some words meant, here's a short meaning to hopefully help.

## A - G

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**Blind bend** - a curve or bend in the road that you can't see round.

**Brow of a hill** – just before the top of a hill.

**Bus lane** – part of the road marked for buses, that can also be used by taxis, cycles, emergency vehicles and motorcycles.

**Collision** – a crash between (at least one) moving objects. [You can collide with a tree]

**Cycle lane** – lanes marked on the road only for cycling.

**Cycle track** – paths for cycling, usually away from the road but sometimes alongside footpaths and pavements.

**Footbridge** – a bridge made to be used by people and pets.

**Fluorescent material** – coloured material which shows up brightly in the day. Fluorescent materials may not show brightly at night that is why reflective materials are recommended for use at night.

**Give way** – to let other people go before you.

**Green Cross Code** – a simple guide to keep you safe if / when crossing roads.

## H - P

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**Highway** – a road.

**Kerb** – separates the footpath from the road.

**Lane (of traffic)** – part of a road to be used by a single line of traffic.

**Level crossing** – a place where a railway and a road meet at the same level.

**Pavement or footpath** – a place along the side of the road where people walk.

**Pedestrian** – person on foot.

**Pedestrian crossing** – Special places where people can cross the road safely.

**Pedestrian island** – part of the road which is raised or marked, where pedestrians can wait in the middle when crossing.

**Pedestrian safety barriers** – metal fences at the edge of the footpath to stop people from crossing that part of the road.

**Pedestrian subway** – pathway under the road.

### **Pelican and puffin crossings**

– signal-controlled crossings operated by pedestrians. These are crossings where pedestrians push the control button that activates the traffic signals. Pelican crossings have a box with a red and green man on the opposite side of the road. At puffin crossings the red and green man are on the control box on your side of the road.

**Priority** – who goes first shown by signs or road markings.

## **R - Z**

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**Reflective materials** – material which reflects light to show up brightly at night.

**Road junction** – where two or more roads meet.

**Roundabout** – where two or more roads meet with an island in the middle that cars drive around

**School Crossing Patrol** – a person who helps you cross the road. They wear a special uniform and carry a sign to stop the traffic.

**Single file** – things, like cars or people, lined up one after another.

**Studs** – reflective markers on the road surface to show traffic where to go.

**Toucan Crossing** – button operated light controlled crossings which let cyclists and pedestrians cross at the same time.

**Traffic** – anything which uses the road legally, including motor vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.

**Traffic lights** – red, amber and green lights which tell the traffic when to stop and when to go.

**Traffic warden** – a person whose job is to make sure cars are parked properly.

**Two abreast** – two things alongside one another, facing the same direction.

**Vehicle** – anything which travels along the road on wheels.

**Zebra Crossing** – a pedestrian crossing shown with black and white stripes, where drivers must stop to allow pedestrians to cross.



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