

ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION OFFICE
PEDESTRIANS



PEDESTRIANS

General Guidance

Footways or Footpaths

These should be used if provided. Where possible, avoid walking next to the kerb with your back to the traffic. If you have to step into the road, look both ways first.

If there is no footway or footpath, walk on the right-hand side of the road so that you can see oncoming traffic. You should take extra care and

- be prepared to walk in single file, especially on narrow roads or in poor light
- keep close to the side of the road.

It may be safer to cross the road well before a sharp right-hand bend (*so that oncoming traffic has a better chance of seeing you*). Cross back after the bend.

Help other Road Users to see you

Wear or carry something light coloured, bright or fluorescent in poor daylight conditions. When it is dark, use reflective materials (*e.g. armbands, sashes, waistcoats and jackets*), which can be seen, by drivers using headlights, up to three times as far away as non-reflective materials.

Young Children

Young children should not be out alone on the footpath, footway or road. When taking children out, walk between them and the traffic and hold their hands firmly. Strap very young children in push-chairs or use reins.

Crossing the Road

Using the Green Cross Code

The advice given below on crossing the road is for all pedestrians. Children should be taught the Code and should not be allowed out alone until they can understand and use it properly. The age when they can do this is different for each child. Many children cannot judge how fast vehicles are going or how far away they are. Children learn by example, so parents and carers should always use the Code in full when out with their children. They are responsible for deciding at what age their children can use it safely by themselves.

1. First find a safe place to cross, then stop.
2. Stand on the pavement near the kerb.
3. Look all around for traffic and listen.
4. If traffic is coming, let it pass. Look all around again and listen.
5. When there is no traffic near, walk straight across the road-do not run.
6. Keep looking and listening for traffic while you cross.



Crossings

At all Crossings

When using any type of crossing you should

- always check that the traffic has stopped before you start to cross or push a pram onto a crossing
- always cross between the studs or over the zebra markings. Do not cross at the side of the crossing or on the zigzag lines, as it can be dangerous. You **MUST NOT** loiter on zebra, pelican, toucan or puffin crossings.

Zebra Crossings

Give traffic plenty of time to see you and to stop before you start to cross. Vehicles will need more time when the road is slippery. Remember that traffic does not have to stop until someone has moved onto the crossing. Wait until the traffic has stopped from both directions or the road is clear before crossing. Keep looking both ways and listening, in case a driver or rider has not seen you and attempts to overtake a vehicle that has stopped.

At Traffic Lights

There may be special signals for pedestrians. You should only start to cross the road when the green figure shows. If you have started to cross the road and the green figure goes out, you should still have time to reach the other side, but do not delay. If no pedestrian signals have been provided, watch carefully and do not cross until the traffic lights are red and the traffic has stopped. Keep looking and check for traffic that may be turning the corner. Remember that traffic lights may let traffic move in some lanes while traffic in other lanes has stopped.

Pelican Crossings

These are signal-controlled crossings operated by pedestrians. Push the control button to activate the traffic signals. When the red figure shows, do not cross. When a steady green figure shows, check that the traffic has stopped then cross with care. When the green figure begins to flash you should not start to cross. If you have already started you should have time to finish crossing safely. At some pelican crossings there is a bleeping sound to indicate to blind or partially-sighted people when the steady green figure is showing and there may be a tactile signal to help deafblind people. When the road is congested, traffic on your side of the road may be forced to stop even though their lights are green. Traffic may still be moving on the other side of the road, so press the button and wait for the signal to cross.

Puffin and Toucan Crossings

These differ from pelican crossings as there is no flashing green figure phase. On puffin crossings the red and green figures are above the control box on your side of the road. Press the button and wait for the green figure to show. On toucan crossings cyclists are permitted to ride across the road.

'Staggered' Pelican or Puffin Crossings

When the crossings on each side of the central refuge are not in line they are two separate crossings. On reaching the central island press the button again and wait for a steady green figure.

Crossings Controlled by an Authorised Person

Do not cross the road unless you are signalled to do so by a police officer, traffic warden or school crossing patrol. Always cross in front of them.

Where there are no controlled crossing points available it is advisable to cross where there is an island in the middle of the road. Use the Green Cross Code to cross to the island and then stop and use it again to cross the second half of the road.

CONTACTS

Further information on Road Safety may be obtained from the DOE Road Safety Education Offices located at the following addresses:-

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