

# ROAD SAFETY CHAMPION

## STAYING STREET SAFE

This booklet contains useful information to help you teach others how to be safe on the road



**SAFER  
ROADS  
GREATER  
MANCHESTER**







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# THE GREEN CROSS CODE

When you're walking anywhere, either on your way to school, playing out or going somewhere with or without an adult, it's important to follow these simple rules before crossing any road.

These rules are called The Green Cross Code

1. **First, 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 and do not run.  
Keep looking, listening and thinking about your safety as you cross



**STOP,  
LOOK,  
LISTEN,  
THINK!**





# BE BRIGHT, BE SEEN

On roads at night – or even on dull, dark days – it can be difficult for drivers to see you. It's even more dangerous if you are wearing dark clothes, because they can't see you at all.

It's important that not only do you cross where the road is well-lit, but that you make yourself stand out by wearing something bright. Better still, try and wear something reflective and fluorescent.

**Reflective** means when something reflects light back; this silver-grey shiny material acts like hundreds of tiny mirrors, reflecting light from the car headlights and sparkles brightly. If you don't have a reflective band on your clothes, you can get reflective bands, stickers or reflective discs to attach to your coat or bag so drivers can see you.

Why don't you grab a torch or your mobile phone light and shine it on the reflective strip on your Road Safety Champion vest?

**Fluorescent** means when something shows up very bright in the daytime, but it DOES NOT light up in the dark. Fluorescent colours can be vivid yellows, pinks, oranges or lime greens.

Wearing or carrying something **fluorescent** and **reflective** is best, so you can be seen whatever the weather or time of day.





# Distractions and Safe Behaviour – Pedestrians and Drivers

Listening for traffic helps to keep you safe, but you can't hear the traffic if you are listening to music, streaming or watching TikTok for example. Talking on your phone whilst walking near the road is also a big distraction. So take off your earphones, eyes up and pay attention to the road when you are crossing.

Remember, the same applies if you are cycling, you always need to be aware what's going on around you when near or crossing the road.

If you come to school by car, remember to remind your driver that they must not park on the yellow zig-zag lines outside school. It will also say '**SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR**'. They are there to help you cross safely - they create a gap where you can see traffic coming and where drivers can see you waiting to cross.

Hey! You can always consider walking to school instead.





# CROSSING BETWEEN PARKED CARS

## Remember

- You should always try and cross at a safe place, where you can see if there's anything coming, and where drivers can see you.
- Sometimes there may be parked cars all the way along the road, so you need to cross between them.
- Be VERY careful. First make sure there are no drivers in the cars you are crossing between - so they won't move.
- Check there are no drivers in the cars you will be crossing between on the other side of the road too.
- You can also listen for engine noise; but remember electric vehicles are even quieter! Look if any lights are on, or if there is exhaust smoke coming out at the back; all these things will tell you that cars are about to move.
- Once you are sure the cars will not move, carefully walk between them and stop just before the edge of the car.
- Follow The Green Cross Code: **STOP, LOOK, LISTEN and THINK** before crossing the road.





# DANGERS AND HAZARDS

You need to be aware of dangers and hazards on the road. It's important for your own safety and the safety of others, that you know the rules of the road, what the signs and light signals mean, and obey them.

- Ambulances, police cars and fire engines are known as 'Emergency Vehicles'. You will see other vehicles moving out of their way as they often travel very quickly to emergencies.
- They are allowed to drive through red traffic lights, even on a pedestrian crossing - so if you hear a siren you must never try to cross the road, even if the 'green man' is showing.
- Once it's clear, always **STOP, LOOK, LISTEN** and **THINK** before crossing and always be aware that there might be another emergency vehicle following.



# DANGERS AND HAZARDS – PAVEMENTS AND DRIVEWAYS

- Pavements can sometimes be uneven or broken, so take care not to trip and fall into the road, and always give other pedestrians enough room so they aren't forced to step in the road. If there are roadworks and you have to step into the road to get around them, check carefully for traffic before you step out.
- If there is no pavement, always walk next to the verge on the side where you are facing oncoming traffic, and you must stay in single file.
- Even when you are on the pavement, you must still take care and look out for vehicles driving on or off driveways - especially if they are hidden by a tall hedge or wall. You may not be able to see them, so it's important to take extra care and listen out for engine noise. The car could be an electric one, so even quieter, more caution is required!
- If the driver is reversing, the white light at the back of the vehicle will come on but remember they may not be able to see you so don't walk behind the car.







## DANGERS AND HAZARDS – WEATHER

- Weather can also affect your safety on the road, with rain and dull days making it difficult for you to be seen.
- Remember to wear or carry something bright, which will help drivers to see you - better still, something hi-vis, which is fluorescent and reflective.
- If you wear a coat with the hood up, you need to be extra careful, as it will stop you being able to see and hear traffic as you turn your head. If you can, slip your hood off as you cross the road, and always use the Green Cross Code.
- Wet roads make it harder for cars to stop as the road is slippery, and at 30 mph it will take a car 23 metres to stop – that's almost the length of the pool when you go swimming!
- Snow and icy conditions mean it will take drivers even longer to stop, and be hazardous for people cycling as well as making the pavements slippery and dangerous for pedestrians.





# PELICAN CROSSING

The signals are high up on the opposite side of the road.

They have a flashing green man before the red man appears.

They are controlled by pushing a button on the 'wait' box.

## HOW TO USE A PELICAN CROSSING:

- When you want to cross, push the button on the wait box.
- The red man signal will be showing, you must wait for the green man signal to show.
- When traffic has stopped and the green man is showing, walk across, looking both ways and listening.
- Don't start to cross if the green man signal is flashing, as the amber traffic light will also be flashing, and drivers may go through if there is no-one on the crossing.







# PUFFIN CROSSING

The red and green man are on the box at the side of the road.

They are controlled by pushing a button on the box.

There is also a camera on the crossing.

## HOW TO USE A PUFFIN CROSSING:

- When you want to cross, push the button on the box.
- The red man signal will be showing, you must wait for the green man signal to show.
- When traffic has stopped and the green man is showing, walk across, looking both ways and listening.
- The camera monitors the pavement and the crossing, so the green man will stay on until pedestrians have crossed.
- There is no 'flashing green man' on the puffin crossing.



# TOUCAN CROSSING

Toucan crossings allow pedestrians AND people cycling to cross the road at the same time.

Along with the red man and the green man, the box at the side of the road displays a red bicycle and a green bicycle.

They are controlled by pushing a button on the box.



## HOW TO USE A TOUCAN CROSSING:

- When you want to cross, push the button on the box.
- The red man and red bicycle signal will be showing, you must wait for the green man and green bicycle signal to show.
- When traffic has stopped and the green man and green bicycle is showing, walk across, looking both ways and listening.
- Toucan crossings are usually wider to enable both pedestrians and people cycling to cross, so 'two can cross!'.



# ZEBRA CROSSING

They are black and white stripes on the road, like a zebra.

There are no traffic lights to control the traffic.

They have orange flashing lights called 'Belisha Beacons' on both sides of the road.



## HOW TO USE A ZEBRA CROSSING:

- Wait on the pavement behind the kerb, so drivers know you want to cross.
- Traffic should stop if drivers see you waiting to cross.
- When traffic has stopped on both sides of the road, walk across, looking both ways and listening.
- If a zebra crossing has a traffic island in the middle, you must treat this as two crossings, and use the Green Cross Code each time.



# SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL

Also known as The 'Lollipop person'.

The School Crossing Patrol person (SCP) carries a lollipop-shaped stick which says 'STOP'.

They wear a hi-vis uniform so they can easily be seen by drivers.

The yellow part is fluorescent and stands out in the daytime, and the silver strips are reflective and stands out when it's dark.



## HOW TO USE THE SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL:

- When you want to cross, stand on the pavement behind the kerb and wait until the SCP has stopped the traffic.
- When the traffic has stopped and it is safe, the SCP will go into the road and call you to cross.
- Always wait until they have said it is safe for you to cross.
- Always cross in front of them, as they cannot see if you have crossed safely if you cross behind them.



# TRAFFIC ISLANDS

- A traffic island is a small crossing area in the middle of the road.
- They help you to get across very busy roads by crossing one side of the road at a time. You must treat the road as two roads.
- Traffic does not stop for pedestrians at traffic islands.
- They usually have yellow and white boxes or yellow and black boards on them - bollards. The bollards have a blue circle with a white arrow inside, to show drivers which side they must go round the traffic island.
- Follow the Green Cross Code to get to the middle and STOP.
- Use the Green Cross Code again to cross the other half of the road safely.





# FOOTBRIDGE

- Footbridges are bridges over the road for pedestrians.
- A footbridge usually goes over a wide or very busy road, so if there is one, make sure you use it.
- Never throw anything from a footbridge, as it is extremely dangerous. Doing this could cause a serious crash below.







# SUBWAY

- Subways are tunnels under the road for pedestrians.
- These are for pedestrians and sometimes people cycling - there is no traffic in a subway.
- Sometimes subways can be dark, so if you have to use one, try and be with a friend or an adult who you know and trust.
- If you feel unsure about using a subway, you could find another safe place to cross and use the Green Cross Code instead.



# TRAFFIC LIGHTS

- Traffic lights control the traffic.
- They can help you to get across very busy roads by stopping the traffic when the lights are on red.
- Follow The Green Cross Code to get across safely.
- Remember the traffic lights are on green for the other road, so look out for cars turning into the road you are crossing.
- Be aware that some drivers may speed through the red light, so always double check that traffic has stopped before you cross.





# RAILWAY CROSSINGS

Railway crossings, otherwise known as level crossings, need your full attention and you need to concentrate with no distractions as they can be very dangerous places.

As well as following the Green Cross Code to look for trains, it is also important to know what to do at each of the different types of crossings.



This sign indicates that we need to be extra vigilant – the crossing may not have a visual or audible warning.

## GATES

You may need to open the gate yourself or some are operated by railway staff.

If you need to open them yourself, you must ensure there are no trains coming before or immediately after opening the gates. You must ensure all the gates are closed after using a crossing.

If you are travelling in a group, please ensure that there is enough space and time for the whole group to cross.

## WARNING LIGHTS

Some crossings have amber and red warning lights. You must stop as soon as the lights come on, whether they are amber or red, and not cross until the lights stop flashing – there may be more than one train coming.

Some crossings have red and green lights. You must only cross when the green lights are showing.

## BARRIERS

Some crossings are 'open' and don't have barriers, some have a 'full barrier' which blocks the entire road, whilst others have a 'half barrier.'

You must not cross any barriers until they are fully raised – there may be more than one train.

## ALARMS AND SIRENS

There are various types of alarms – some sound like sirens, some sound like train horns.

You must not cross if you hear a warning sound or message. This is the opposite of a pelican crossing, where the sound indicates that it is safe to cross.



# TRAM CROSSINGS

Trams run on tracks which can be set into the road or raised above the road like a train track. It is important that when you are crossing the tram tracks that you cross at the crossing points if there is one.

Sometimes these crossings are signalled and look like train crossings with barriers that come down across the road to stop the traffic. It is important that you do not go under the barriers or try and race to get through the barriers as they are coming down as they are there to keep you safe. Once the tram has passed and the barriers go up, you are safe to cross.

If there is no crossing point then you must follow the green cross code and remember to look for both trams and other vehicles.





# CAR PASSENGERS

- If you are less than 135cms tall and under the age of 12, you must travel in a car seat or booster seat - it's the law. If you are above this height then you must wear a seatbelt.
- Distracting the driver is dangerous and could cause a crash, so don't do anything silly which may take their attention away from the road and other traffic. Don't block their view in the mirror.
- Never lean out or throw anything out of the window.
- Never open the car door if the car is moving.
- When you get out of the car, use the door on the pavement side and always look, before opening the door, for any people cycling and walking that may be passing.
- NEVER get into a stranger's car.







## BUS PASSENGERS

- While you wait for the bus or tram, to stay safe, do not play around the bus or tram stop and stand back from the kerb and traffic.
- Always wait for people to get off the bus before you get on.
- Drivers are watching the traffic, so don't distract them and always do what they tell you.
- Wear a seatbelt if one is available.
- If there are no seats and you have to stand, always hold tightly to one of the poles or rails in case the driver has to stop suddenly.
- After getting off the bus, if you need to cross the road, wait for the bus to move away. You can then see any traffic coming and drivers can see you. Remember to use the Green Cross Code when you cross, and if possible walk to a safer crossing place.



# CYCLING

Always play **AWAY** from roads. If you're on your way to play somewhere safe, and near a road, it's a good idea to carry balls or other things you're taking with you, in a bag. This way, you avoid the risk of dropping them into the road. This is dangerous because you may be tempted to retrieve them, and it's also distracting for drivers.

- **Be Bright, Be Seen!** Wearing light, bright colours, and fluorescent and reflective clothing, will help drivers and pedestrians to see you better.
- Your bike should also be seen easily. By law, at night you need at least one red light on the back, and one white light on the front. You also need a red reflector on the back, and a white one on the front, as well as reflectors on your spokes.
- Protect your head by wearing a cycle helmet. Make sure it fits properly and always fasten it.
- As well as being seen, you need to be heard! With a bell on your bike, you can let others know you're coming.







- Make sure your bike is well maintained and before going out for a ride, check the red back reflector is clean, brakes work and tyres are in good condition. If you go out on your bike at night, make sure the front and back lights work well.
- Make sure other road users have seen you. Make eye contact where you can with drivers and pedestrians, before doing any manoeuvres.
- Be careful of vehicles turning left in front of you, and never squeeze between a large vehicle and the edge of the road – drivers cannot see you there.
- Use special cycle routes and paths if there are any nearby and if you use a special path shared by people cycling and walking, always leave space for the pedestrians.
- Most of all – get some training! Bikeability training is free in all schools for Year 5 or Year 6 pupils. Instructors will come to your school to teach you how to cycle safely on the roads – ask your adult helper to contact Bikeability.



# ROLLERBLADING, SKATEBOARDING AND RIDING YOUR SCOOTER

- Make sure you skate or ride safely without causing a nuisance to others. Watch out for pedestrians.
- Only skate or ride on the pavement and if you can, use special places like skate parks, parks and playgrounds.
- Wearing a helmet, wrist guards and knee and elbow protectors, will also help you to stay safe.
- Be careful passing driveways and when crossing the road always get off your scooter or skateboard, and use the Green Cross Code.





# GLOSSARY

Here are some words used in your information pack and their meanings

Belisha Beacon	The flashing orange lights on top of the black and white striped poles at zebra crossings
Buckle	A metal clip used to fasten your seatbelt
Car Seat	A removable seat with a harness that fastens onto the car seat, keeping children safe
Direction	The path someone or something follows from one place to another
Distract	Cause someone to lose attention and stop being careful
Emergency Services	A service that responds to and deals with emergencies, especially ambulance, firefighters and the police
Fluorescent	Bright colours; clothes which show up and stand out in daylight
Green Cross Code	A special set of rules for crossing the road safely
Hazard	A danger or risk
Injury	The hurt and harm someone can suffer in an crash
Journey	Travelling from one place to another
Kerb	The edge of the pavement
Pedestrian	A person walking
Pelican Crossing	A light-controlled crossing which shows when it is safe to cross, using 'red man' and 'green man' lights high up on the opposite side of the road
Puffin Crossing	Similar to the Pelican Crossing, but with the 'red man' and the 'green man' on the box on the same side of the road as you
Reflective	Material which reflects (shines the light back) and can be seen easily on dull days or in the dark when car headlights shine on it
Route	The way you go to travel from place to place
School Crossing Patrol (SCP)	A person outside school who helps children to cross the road safely, using a special sign to help stop the traffic; also known as a 'lollipop man/lady'
Senses	Having sight, smell, hearing, taste and touch
Siren	A warning sound, mostly on emergency vehicles
Subway	A tunnel under busy roads for pedestrians, and sometimes people cycling, to use when they want to cross from one side to the other
Toucan Crossing	A light controlled crossing for pedestrians and people cycling with a red and green bike signal alongside the 'red man' and 'green man' signal
Traffic Island	A place in the middle of busy roads where pedestrians can stand in order to cross wide roads safely in two halves
Vehicle	Something which carries people or goods, such as cars, lorries, buses
Warning	Something which tells you there is danger ahead
Zebra Crossing	A safer crossing place with black and white stripes on the road, and Belisha Beacons at the side



Produced by  
**SAFER  
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