



Pedestrian safety

Pedestrians, along with cyclists and motorcyclists, are collectively classified as vulnerable road users due to their lack of protection in a collision. Especially vulnerable are children under 14 years of age.



Age

Children are at higher risk as pedestrians due to their lack of experience and skills needed to be a safe road user, and therefore should always be supervised around traffic by adults.

Visibility

One of the key factors involved in pedestrian crashes is that other road users do not see them until it is too late, or that they step out from concealed locations.

Because of their height, children are not always visible. Teach your child to choose places to cross where drivers can easily see them. Crossing between parked cars can be dangerous and where possible should be avoided.

Light coloured clothing can increase the visibility of pedestrians in traffic, especially at night.

Rules for pedestrians

As for other road users, specific road rules apply for pedestrians. Failure to obey these rules is often a contributor to pedestrian crashes. To minimise the risk of being involved in a crash, pedestrians should always use crossings and obey the signals.

Crossing roads

Your child should always – **Stop, look, listen and think** – to help them decide if it is safe to cross the road.

Choosing a safe place to cross is something that your child needs to learn. Take a walk in the local area and help your child to decide places where it would be safer to cross and those that could be potentially dangerous such as on a bend or corner, and over a multi-lane road with no crosswalk.

If your child uses a school crossing, teach your child to:

- always follow the instructions of the traffic warden
- check that all traffic has stopped before stepping onto the crossing
- use the stop, look, listen and think procedure if the crossing is not supervised.

Railway level crossing

Using a pedestrian crossing on the rail is like using any other pedestrian crossing – you have to obey the safety signs.

1. Stop and wait when the red lights are flashing, and the automatic gates are starting to close.
2. Never walk around the gates, as the train will be close and there could be a second train approaching.
3. Never jump or push open fences, gates or barriers. Even if the train has passed, there are two train lines and a train could be coming from the other direction.
4. Once the red lights and warning sounds have stopped and the gates have opened, it is safe to cross the train lines.

Thank you for playing a vital role in your child's road safety education.