

IT'S A JUNGLE OUT THERE



STAY SAFE ON THE ROADS

Aisha the Sloth

Likes to take things at her own pace, not one for being rushed. Not very alert to what's going on around her.



Elijah the Armadillo

Bit of a daredevil, thinks he's invincible. Not one for safety.



Yu Yan the Hyena

Mischievous and a bit of a show off. Gets distracted while having fun with her friends.



Edgar the Bush Baby

Obsessed with his phone, never looks up from it.



Oliver the Lemur

Full of energy and loves music. Always cranks up the volume, often drowning out the sound of his surroundings.



So, you're moving from primary school to secondary school? Wow, it's like opening a door to a whole new world!

New lessons. New teachers.
New friends. And new journeys too!

Different streets, roads and crossings.
You might even be heading to and from school without an adult for the first time.

There might be more distractions like your phone, friends or thinking about school and homework. You might be making your new journey by bus, bicycle or even by train.

Most likely it will be a longer journey than you are used to with busier roads and in the rush hour.

Drivers have to be careful... but so do you!

And this can feel hard. You might be running a bit late for school and rushing. But it's important to be careful!

Keep reading to find out some things you can do to make sure you travel safely all the way to school and back.

It's a jungle out there, so you need to stay safe on the roads!



Plan a safe route to school

One of the most important things you can do between now and the first day of Autumn term is to plan a safe route to your new school.

Remember, the safest route may not be the quickest, but if you avoid busy roads and find the safest places to cross, and if you discover cycle lanes that take you away from main roads, then you will enjoy your new journey much more.

Perhaps you are using a bus or a train for the first time. You will soon become used to your new journey, and sitting down now and having a chat with a grown-up about the route you will be taking makes great sense. It's good to know which bus or train you have

to catch, and which stop to get off at, and where to wait for the bus on the way home. Ask if you can make the journey together before the start of term, just so as you are confident and know what to expect.

If you are being driven by car, why not consider Park and Stride? It is much better to be dropped off a few streets away from school so that you can enjoy a bit of walking exercise before you start the school day. It is also better for everyone if the school entrance isn't clogged up with cars dropping students off.

Have a practice run with a grown-up, it will help to prepare you for the big day!



Stop, look, listen - The Green Cross Code

Follow the Green Cross Code for a safe way to get to where you're going, because roads can be dangerous places with many risks. A bit like a jungle!

These instructions have been written for young people just like you, so pay attention – yes even you!

The Green Cross Code

1) Find a safe place to cross

- Use a pedestrian crossing if there is one
- Choose a place where you can see clearly in all directions
- If something is blocking your view of the road, choose a better place to cross!

2) Stop just before you get to the kerb

- Do not stand on the kerb
- If there is no pavement, stand at the edge of the road

3) Look all around for traffic and listen

- Traffic can come from any direction
- Sometimes you can hear traffic before you see it
- If you see or hear an emergency vehicle in the distance, wait for it to pass

4) If traffic is coming, let it pass

- Never run across the road when traffic is coming, even if you think there is time. It can be difficult to judge the speed of traffic
- Be aware that traffic might speed up

5) When it is safe, go straight across the road – do not run

- Continue to look and listen as you cross
- Look out for cyclists and quieter vehicles, you may not hear them approaching
- Walk straight across the road

Source: <https://www.rospa.com/media/documents/road-safety/teaching-road-safety-a-guide-for-parents.pdf>

Different types of crossing

There are different types of crossing that you might come across.

Here are the main ones:

You probably recognise some of their names!

- Zebra
- Pelican
- Toucan
- Puffin

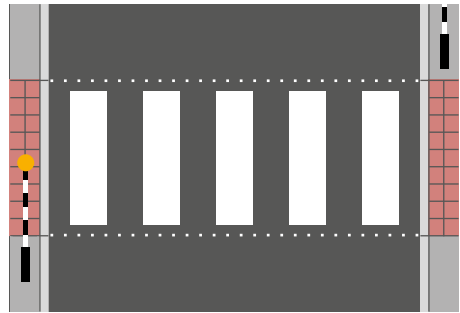
For a bonus: Do you know which one of these animals does not actually live in the jungle?*

When using any type of crossing, you should:

- Always check that the traffic has stopped before you start to cross
- Always cross between the studs or over the zebra markings
- Do not cross at the side of the crossing or on the zig-zag lines, as it can be dangerous
- Use traffic islands to help you cross the road when they are available

Zebra crossings

Zebra Crossings have flashing orange lamps called **Belisha Beacons**.



Give drivers and cyclists plenty of time to see you so they can stop for you. Vehicles need more time to stop when the road is slippery if it has been raining. It is London after all!

You should stop on the pavement before you start to cross too. Wait until traffic has stopped in both directions or the road is completely clear before you cross. Keep looking both ways and keep listening, in case a driver or rider hasn't seen you.

Did you know?

Belisha Beacons are named after Leslie Hore-Belisha, the Minister of Transport in 1934, and flash to warn drivers and cyclists that pedestrians may be crossing.

Pelican crossings

These are signal-controlled crossings operated by pedestrians *like you*.



Did you know?

At some crossings there is a bleeping sound or voice signal to indicate to blind or partially sighted people that the steady green figure is showing, and there may be a tactile signal to help deaf and blind people.

Push the control button to activate the traffic signals. When the red figure shows, do not cross. When you see a green figure that is not flashing, check the traffic has stopped, then cross carefully.

When the green figure begins to flash, you should not start to cross. But if you have already started, you should have time to finish crossing that part of the road safely.

Puffin crossings

Puffin crossings are like pelican crossings, but the red and green figures are above the control box on your side of the road and there is no flashing green figure.

Press the button and wait for the green figure to show.

When the road is busy, 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 green signal to cross.



Toucan crossings

Toucan crossings are light-controlled crossings which let cyclists and pedestrians share crossing space and cross at the same time. They are push-button operated. Pedestrians and cyclists will see the green signal together. Cyclists are permitted to ride across. Be careful of any cyclists and don't try to beat them!

Did you know?

Those dots or raised surfaces at some crossings are there for blind or partially sighted people to tell them where the crossing point is. The most common surfaces are a series of raised studs, which are used at crossing points with a dropped kerb.

Crossing at a junction

Sometimes you might need to cross at a junction without a road crossing. You have to be extra careful here and use everything you have learnt about listening, paying attention and making sure any roads are clear.

Follow the Green Cross Code – that is the most important thing! Stop, look and listen, as you would normally do when you cross the road, and as an extra precaution, look and listen for traffic turning into the road behind you.

Where there is no crossing

If you can, find a place to cross away from parked cars so that you have a clear view of the road in both directions.

If you absolutely have to cross between parked cars, find two that have a good space between, and check that they have no drivers in them before walking between them. Stop at the outside edge of the cars and look and listen to check that it is safe to cross the road.



Travelling on a bus

- Be sensible while you wait for the bus and stand well back from the edge of the pavement
- Be considerate to the driver and other passengers
- Take care when you are getting on and off the bus
- Don't try to cross the road behind the bus where other vehicles won't have a clear view of you and you won't be able to see them. Wait for the bus to drive off before you cross the road

Travelling in a car

Even though you're not driving, when riding in a car there are still things you can do to keep yourself and others safe.

- Wear a seatbelt! Cars are fast vehicles. Everyone in the car should think safety, and wear a seatbelt
- Don't lean, hang or even wave your arm out of the window. Trust us
- Only open the door if it is safe. Look left and right, back to front before opening the door. If you can, ask the adult driving if it is safe to get out too
- When you do go to get out, use the pavement side. Don't open the door onto the road with traffic
- Even though you are not driving, there are things you can do as a passenger to keep yourself and others safe
- Don't block the driver's view in their mirror. They need to see what's going on behind the car. And don't mess about and distract the driver's attention

Riding a bike to school

It is important to have some training before you ride your bike on the roads. Bikeability Level 2 is the most suitable for you. A parent or guardian can contact your local Council and ask for information about this training.

Ready, Set... Wait!

Before you go, don't forget:

- A good cycling helmet that fits your head and that is securely fastened
- Some bright clothing, or some fluorescent clothes too. Being seen is very important
- Make sure your bike is the right size for you! If it's too big or too small, it's not safe to ride
- Make sure your bike is roadworthy. This means it should have brakes that work properly and the tyres are properly pumped up



When you're riding

- Always be aware of your surroundings, including people and traffic! Pay attention to cars, buses, other bikes and pedestrians too
- When setting off, turning or overtaking, use your eyes and ears to make sure it is safe. Use your arms too! Use them to signal left or right to make sure people around you know what to expect
- Do not make any sudden changes to your cycling, and always make sure it is safe to start, stop or turn
- Keep both hands on your handlebars unless you are signalling or changing gears. Do both carefully
- When turning into another road, crossing pedestrians have priority, so give them way
- You must stop for pedestrians at zebra crossings
- Where you can, use cycling routes or lanes. They're made to keep cyclists safe

- Be careful around lorries, trucks and buses. The drivers might not always see you!
- Do not ride in the space between a vehicle and the kerb, because the person driving may be about to turn left and it could be dangerous for you
- Don't forget your bike lock to keep your bike safe

Cycling in the dark (definitely speak to your parents or carers before you do this)

- Wear bright and reflective clothing. You could get a jacket, backpack or accessories around your wrists and hips. Make sure you can be seen from in front and behind too!
- When it's dark or visibility is poor, your bike lights must be on! It keeps you and others safe
- A lit white front light and a red reflector light in the back will do the trick



STAY SAFE ON THE ROADS

**For more information about being your best on a bike visit:
www.bikeabilitytrust.org**

Whether you're walking, cycling, traveling by bus or being driven to school; talk to a parent, carer or guardian to make sure you do it safely!

Useful links and further information:

<https://londonroadsafetycouncil.org.uk/>

www.think.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Tales-of-the-Road.pdf

www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code

www.rospa.com/road-safety/advice/pedestrians/children-road-safety

<https://bikeabilitytrust.org/>

