

Road Safety Week 2019

Road Safety Week is an annual event to raise awareness of how to stay safe when out on the roads. This year, Road Safety Week is happening on 18th – 24th November. Every year has a different theme and focus. This year, the theme is 'Step up for Safe Streets'.

What Does 'Step up for Safe Streets' Mean?



This year, Road Safety Week wants people to learn about and celebrate how we get around safely every day. This can mean everything from how a road is designed and the speed limits decided, to the use of safety technology in vehicles.

Every year, more people are cycling or walking to work or school as it is good for their health and a good form of exercise. It is also better for the environment. However, every 20 minutes, someone is killed or seriously injured on British roads in accidents that could often be avoided. Not only do we need to be aware about how to stay safe on roads but it is also important that our local councils step up and provide ways for people to walk or cycle safely too.

Staying Safe

Follow the Green Cross Code to stay safe when crossing.

1. Find a safe place to cross.
2. Stop in front of the kerb.
3. Look both ways and listen for traffic.
4. Let traffic pass.
5. When it is safe, walk straight across the road. Do not run.

Ways to Cross

There are five different types of crossings in the UK:

Zebra crossings can be spotted as the road is painted with black and white stripes. At each end, there are two black and white posts with a yellow light at the top. These are called Belisha Beacons.

Puffin and **Pelican** crossings can be identified by their use of the red and green man symbols and a button for pedestrians to press. The difference between them is that at pelican crossings, the green man will flash on and off to show that the traffic lights

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will change soon. In a puffin crossing, there are special detectors in the kerb which know if more crossing time is needed. This stops the traffic lights changing.

Toucan crossings are like Pelican and Puffin crossings but cyclists can use them too. (The name is often remembered as 'two can' cross). They have a bike symbol next to the red and green man.

Pegasus crossings are the same as Toucan crossings, except these are for horse riders instead of cyclists, and have a horse symbol with the red and green man.

What Else Can I Do to Help?

There are many things you can do to make sure that you stay safe on the roads.

First, always make sure you are aware of others on the road; look both ways as well as listening carefully before crossing the street.

Make sure you use crossings to cross the road when you can, such as zebra crossings and pelican crossings.

Finally, if you notice somewhere it is unsafe to cross, write to your local council and ask them to make a change and step up for safe streets.

