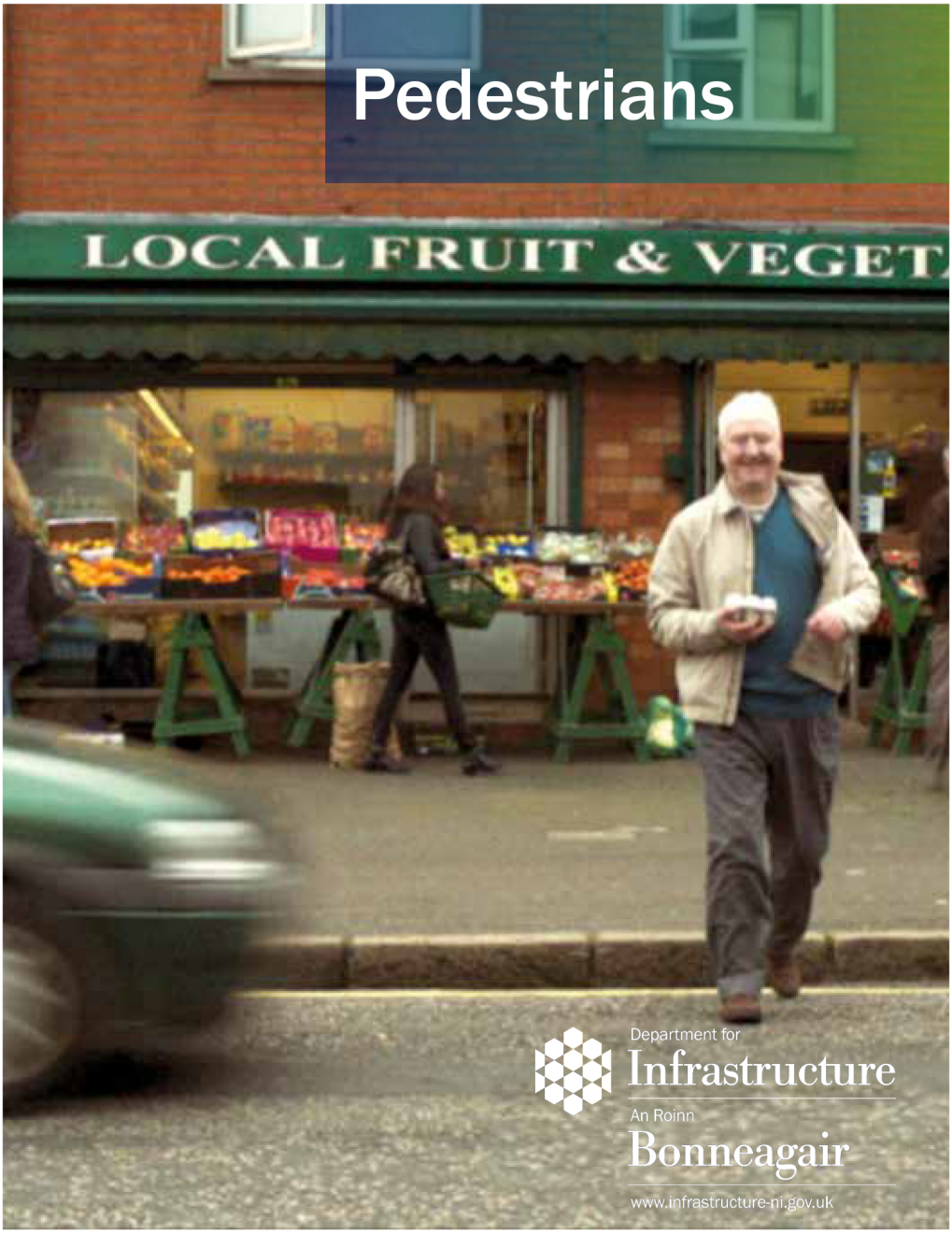
ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION

Pedestrians



Department for
Infrastructure
An Roinn
Bonneagair
www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk



Just because you use the road doesn't mean you own it

One in five road deaths is a pedestrian. 74% of pedestrian deaths are caused by the pedestrian most commonly being heedless to traffic or careless.

To prevent deaths and serious injuries, pedestrians and drivers must share the road and the responsibility.

Remember – Respect Everyone's Journey

The Highway Code - it's not just a book of rules, it could save your life

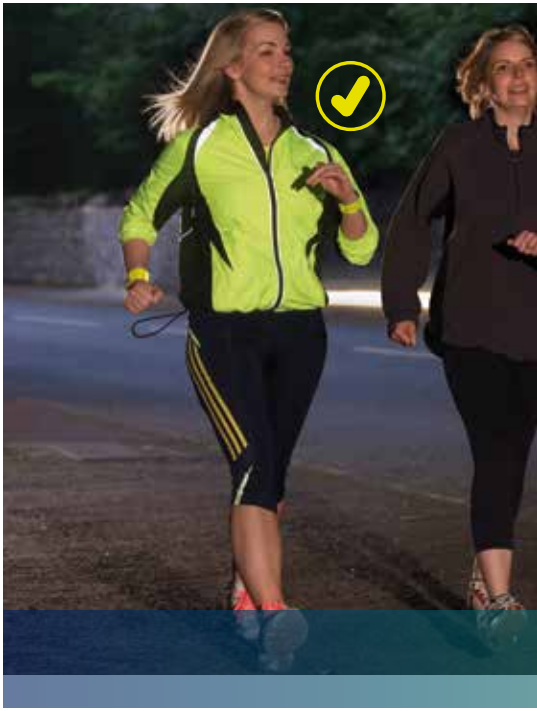
The Highway Code NI is extremely important for all road users whether you are a pedestrian, a cyclist, a motorcyclist or a driver. As a pedestrian you are particularly vulnerable. **To protect yourself and others from death or serious injury, follow these rules from The Highway Code.**

Just because you can see the car doesn't mean the driver can see you

ALWAYS wear or carry something light-coloured, bright or fluorescent when walking during the day, especially in poor light or weather conditions.

At night time always wear reflective Hi-vis clothing or accessories. Reflective materials can be seen up to three times as far away by drivers as non-reflective materials and this could save your life.

The best advice is to wear fluorescent by day and reflective by night. Or, better still, both.



Use footpaths

ALWAYS use footways or footpaths if provided and avoid being 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 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; and
- 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.



Young children

Young children should not be out alone on the footway, footpath or road. When taking children out, keep between them and the traffic and hold their hands firmly. Strap very young children into push-chairs or use reins. When pushing a young child in a buggy, **DO NOT** push the buggy into the road when checking to see if it is clear to cross, particularly from between parked vehicles.

Organised Walks

Large groups of people walking together should use a footway or footpath if available; if one is not, keep to the left. Have look-outs at the front and back of the group, wearing fluorescent clothes in daylight and reflective in the dark. At night the front look-out should show a white light and the back look-out a red light. People on the outside of large groups should also carry lights and wear reflective clothing.

Motorways

Pedestrians **MUST NOT** be on motorways or slip roads except in an emergency.



Just because you're older doesn't mean you shouldn't use The Green Cross Code

THE GREEN CROSS CODE is for all pedestrians no matter what age you are. **ALWAYS STOP, LOOK** and **LISTEN** before crossing the road. It will help keep you alive.

Children should be taught the Code and should not be allowed out alone until they can understand and use it properly. It is a parent or carer's responsibility to decide what age this is.

Remember - children learn by example, so always use the Code in full when out with children.

THE GREEN CROSS CODE

1. Find a safe place to cross and where there is a space to reach the footway or footpath on the other side. Where there is a crossing nearby, use it. It is safer to cross using a subway, a footbridge, an island, a Zebra, Pelican, Toucan or Puffin Crossing, or where there is a crossing point controlled by a police officer or school crossing patrol.

Otherwise choose a place where you can see clearly in all directions. **AVOID** crossing between parked cars, on a blind bend or close to the brow of a hill. Move to a space where drivers and riders can see you clearly. **DO NOT** cross the road diagonally.

2. Stop just before you get to the kerb, where you can see if anything is coming. **DO NOT** get too close to the traffic. If there's no footway or footpath keep back from the edge of the road but make sure you can still see approaching traffic.

3. Look all around for traffic and listen. Traffic could come from any direction. Listen as well, because you can sometimes hear traffic before you see it.

4. If traffic is coming, let it pass. Look all around again and listen. DO NOT cross until there is a safe gap in the traffic and you are certain that there is plenty of time. **Remember**, even if traffic is a long way off, it may be approaching very quickly.

5. When it is safe go straight across the road – DO NOT RUN. Keep looking and listening for traffic while you cross, in case there is any traffic you did not see, or in case other traffic appears suddenly. Look out for cyclists and motorcyclists travelling between lanes of traffic. **DO NOT** walk diagonally across the road.



Just because you're in a rush doesn't mean you can ignore the crossing

ALWAYS use a pedestrian crossing where one is available even if you are in a rush. If you cross the road in the wrong way and cause a crash it's your responsibility and someone could be seriously injured because of your carelessness.

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 the 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.

Types of crossings

Zebra Crossings

Give traffic plenty of time to see you and to stop before you cross. Vehicles will need more time when the road is slippery. Wait until traffic has stopped from both directions or the road is clear before crossing. **Remember**, traffic does not have to stop until someone has moved onto the 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. Where there is an island in the middle of a Zebra Crossing, wait on the island and treat the second half of the road as a separate crossing.

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 and the green figure goes out, you should still have time to reach the other side, but **DO NOT** delay. If there are no pedestrian signals, 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**, 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. When the red figure shows do not cross. When a steady green figure shows, check that

traffic has stopped then cross with care. When the green figure begins to flash you should not cross. If you have already started you should have time to finish crossing safely.

Puffin Crossings

These differ from Pelican Crossings as the red and green figures are above the control box on your side of the road and there is no flashing green figure phase. Press the button and wait for the green figure to show. 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.

Toucan Crossings

These are light-controlled crossings which allow cyclists and pedestrians to share crossing space and cross at the same time. They are push button operated. Cyclists are permitted to ride across.

'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 or school crossing patrol. **ALWAYS** cross in front of them.



Just because you can see the car doesn't mean the driver can see you

Crossing between parked vehicles

If you have to cross between parked vehicles, use the outside edges of the vehicles as if they were the kerb. **STOP** there and make sure:

- You can see all around and the traffic can see you; and
- There is a gap between any parked vehicles on the other side so you can reach the footway or footpath. **NEVER** cross the road in front of, or

behind, any vehicle with its engine running, especially a large vehicle, as the driver may not be able to see you.

Take extra care

Emergency vehicles

If an ambulance, fire engine, police or any other emergency vehicle approaches using flashing blue lights, headlights and/or sirens, **KEEP OFF** the road.

Buses

Get on or off a bus only when it has stopped to allow you to do so. Watch out for cyclists when you are getting off. **Never** cross the road directly behind or in front of a bus. Wait until it has moved off and you can see the road clearly in both directions.

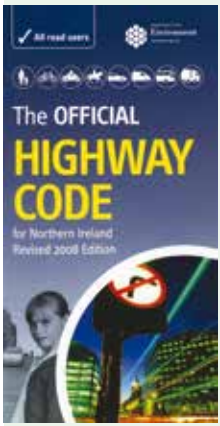
Railway Level Crossings

You **MUST NOT** cross or pass a stop line if:

- The red lights show, (including a red pedestrian figure); and
- An alarm is sounding or the barriers are being lowered. The tone of the alarm may change if another train is approaching. If there are no lights, alarms or barriers, **STOP, LOOK** both ways and **LISTEN** before crossing.

Street, footway and footpath repairs

A footway or footpath may be closed temporarily because it is not safe to use. Take extra care if you are directed to walk on or to cross the road.



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Respect everyone's journey

Protect yourself from death, serious injury and breaking the law. Download your **FREE** copy of **The Highway Code NI** today - www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/highway-code

This leaflet is available in other formats.

Call 0300 200 7838

www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/road-safety

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