

# Staying Safe in Walsall

A road safety guide



Walsall Council



Active Sustainable Travel and Road Safety

# Green Cross Code

Follow these steps below to help you cross the road safely:

**Find the safest place to cross, are there any zebra, pelican or other crossings you can use?**

Make sure you have space to reach the pavement on the other side and that you can see in all directions.



**STOP** - stand behind the kerb as you don't want to be too close to the edge or traffic.



**LOOK** - look around for traffic, it can come from any direction. Move your head around to fully see any oncoming traffic.



**LISTEN** - carefully listen for traffic noise. You can sometimes hear engine noise before you can see a vehicle, especially on a bend.



**THINK** - If traffic is coming let it pass, make sure you have a clear road and enough time to cross. Be careful especially if you think traffic is far away as it can approach quite quickly. When it is safe, cross in a straight line and do not run. Keep looking and listening while you cross.

Remember to take off hoods and turn off music when crossing.

Always  
cross at a  
well-lit point



## People Who Help Us Cross

School Crossing Patrols (SCP) and Civil Enforcement Officers can help you cross the road. Wait until the SCP signal to you that it is safe to cross and always cross in front of them.



# Safer Places To Cross

## Zebra

Always use a zebra if there is one, this is the only crossing which has a belisha beacon.

- Wait on the pavement near the kerb until traffic on both sides has stopped.
- Then cross when it is safe to do so across the black and white lines.
- Keep looking and listening for vehicles in case a driver has not seen you.
- Allow enough time for the vehicles to stop especially in wet weather as it may take longer.

## Crossings With Traffic Lights

Some pedestrian crossings have a red and a green man box on the opposite side of the road (pelican crossing) and others have the box on the same side of the road as you (puffin crossing).

Push the button and wait where you can see the signal and the traffic. Once the green man shows and the traffic has stopped you can start to cross. There may be a bleeper sound at this time, keep looking and listening for traffic.

Do not start to cross if the green man is flashing. If you are already crossing continue to do so, if you have not started yet, wait for the constant green man to appear again. When the green man disappears there could be:

- **A flashing green man**
- **A red man signal**
- **No signal**

Some crossings with green men will only work if a pedestrian is waiting by the push button.

Some crossings have an island in the middle of the road. Treat each half of the crossing as a separate crossing; press the button and wait for the green man.



## Pedestrian Island In The Road

Always use the Green Cross Code to cross to the island and treat each half as a separate crossing.

Remember to look around and listen each time you cross.

Also watch out for overtaking vehicles.

### Crossing Between Parked Cars - **Try not to cross between parked cars**

If however you must as there is nowhere else to cross then follow these guidelines:

- Choose a place where there is a space between two cars and make sure it is easy to get to the pavement on the other side.
- Look into the parked cars for drivers, lights on the back and listen for engine noise. Once you are sure neither car is about to move off then continue.
- Do not cross near large vehicles, they could block your view and the driver may not be able to see you.
- Walk to the outside edge of the cars and stop. Line yourself up with the back lights of the car, there drivers can see you and you can see them better.
- Use the Green Cross Code to cross and keep looking and listening when crossing.
- If a car is approaching, step back onto the pavement and wait for it to pass before stepping back out to the correct position again.





## Driveways/Car Parks

It is very important to be aware of any moving vehicles when in a car park or walking past a driveway.

Some of the clues to look out for are:

- **Driver in vehicle**
- **Smoke from exhaust**
- **Wheels are turning**
- **Car lights, especially the reverse light**
- **Engine sound**



## Car Lights

Car lights give us a clue as to what a driver is intending to do.

**Red** - Brake light means a car may stop or slow down.



**White** - Reverse light means the car will be moving backwards/reversing so be careful.

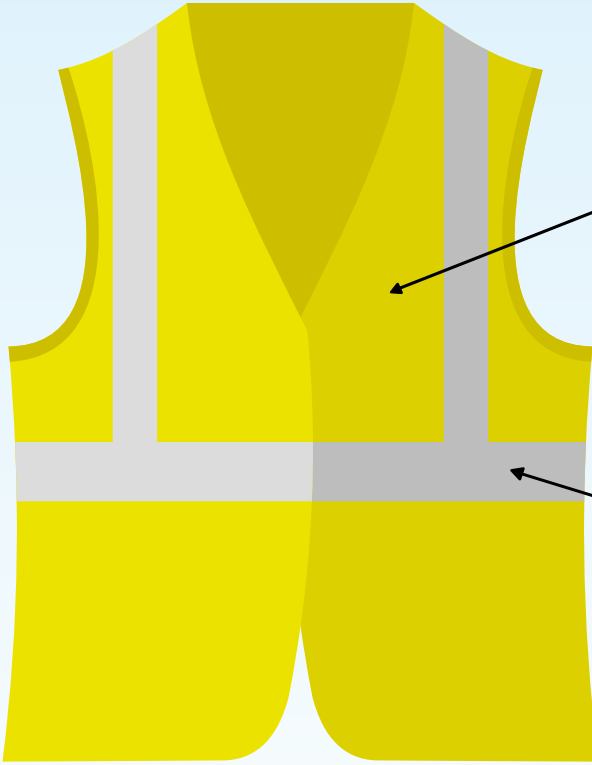


**Flashing yellow** - Indicator Light - car will be moving to the left or right so be aware.



# Be Bright Be Seen

When walking or cycling, it is vital to be dressed bright and be seen by drivers and other road users.



**Daylight** - Fluorescent materials are ideal to wear as they show up in daylight and at dusk.

**Night-time** - Reflective materials show up in the dark.

With the darker nights starting earlier in winter always remember to be bright and be seen!



# Travelling In Cars

The law says that seatbelts **MUST** be worn in the front and back of a vehicle at all times.

Children under the age of **12** and under **135cm** in height must use a booster seat.



## Distractions

Remember when in a car:

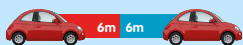
- Never distract the driver, they could lose concentration and this can be dangerous.
- Never block the rear view mirror.
- Never open the door when the car is moving.
- Always get out the car on the pavement side when it is safe to do so.



## Stopping Distances

When a driver sees a hazard on the road, they may need to stop the car immediately. This doesn't just happen instantly as the driver needs time to think about the hazard (thinking distance) and then brake to have the vehicle come to a complete stop (braking distance).

**20 mph**  
(32 km/h)



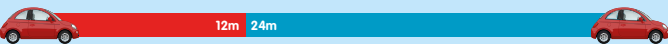
**= 12 metres (40 feet)**  
or three car lengths

**30 mph**  
(48 km/h)



**= 23 metres (75 feet)**  
or six car lengths

**40 mph**  
(64 km/h)



**= 36 metres (118 feet)**  
or nine car lengths

 **= Thinking distance**

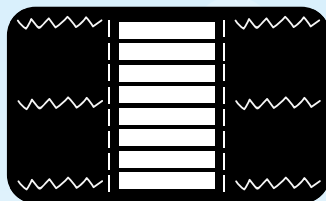
 **= Braking distance**

**In wet conditions  
the stopping  
distance will need  
to be doubled!**

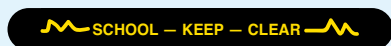


## Road Markings

'Zig zag' on Zebra and Pelican crossings – vehicles must not overtake, wait or park in the zig zag areas. Pedestrians should not cross on the zig zag areas. They should always use the crossing.



School Keep Clear – keep the area outside the school entrance clear.



Give way to traffic on the major road

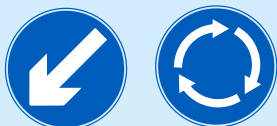


Stop at the **STOP** line

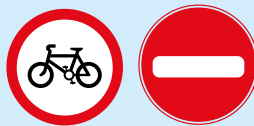
## Road Signs/Orders

Always obey the signs as they help to keep you safe.

**Blue** circle signs usually tell you what you **MUST** do



**Red** circle signs tell you **NOT** to do something



**Warning** signs are usually triangular and make you aware of what's coming ahead

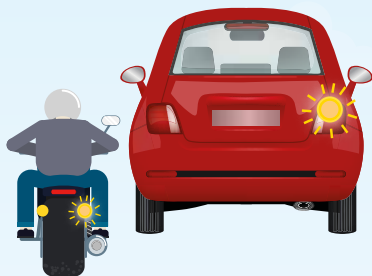


**Information** signs are usually rectangular and give directions

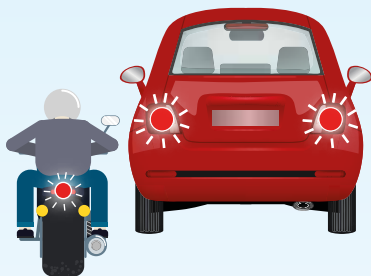


## Car Signs/Behaviours

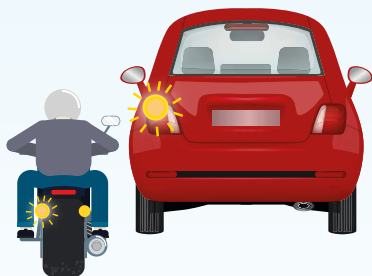
Drivers and motorbike users may use signals to let you know what they want to do:



I intend to move out to the right or turn right.



I am slowing down or stopping.



I intend to move in to the left or turn left or stop to the left.

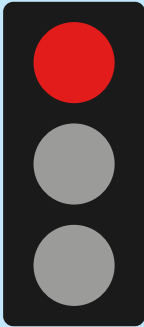


I am going to reverse.



## Traffic Light Sequence

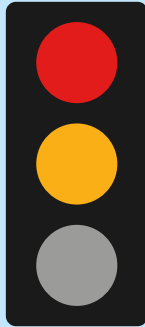
You will find the following at a pelican and puffin crossing:



**Red**

**STOP**

Wait behind the  
**stop** line



**Red and  
Amber**

Also means  
**STOP**



**Green**

You may go if it is  
safe to do so. Take  
special care if you  
mean to turn left or  
right and give way  
to pedestrians who  
are crossing.



**Amber**

Also means  
**STOP**



# Active Travel

Active travel is great as:

- It's free
- You can catch up with friends and socialise on the way to school
- It helps you become more independent
- It improves your road safety skills
- It helps to reduce pollution and traffic



The different types of active travel are:

**Walking** - Walk in any weather and it's great for your health.

**Walking Bus** - A good way to walk with friends/children from your school and have a good chat.

**Park & Stride** - Great for people who live too far to walk all the way to school. Parents/Carers park about a 5-10 minute walk away from school at an agreed location and walk the remaining journey to school.

**5 minute Walk Zone** - Parents/carers park outside of the marked 5 minute walk zone and walk the last 5 minutes to school.

**Cycling** - Cycling to school can be fun and help promote independence especially if you have had Bikeability training, which offers key skills when cycling.

**Scooting** - So much fun and a great way to get in some exercise.





# Cycling

A simple “M” check before you get on your bike means that you can be sure your bike is safe to ride.

**Front tyre:** Check that it has plenty of air and that it's not too worn.

**Front brake:** Push the bike forward whilst pulling on the right brake to check that it stops the bike from moving forwards. Make sure the brake blocks aren't touching the tyre.

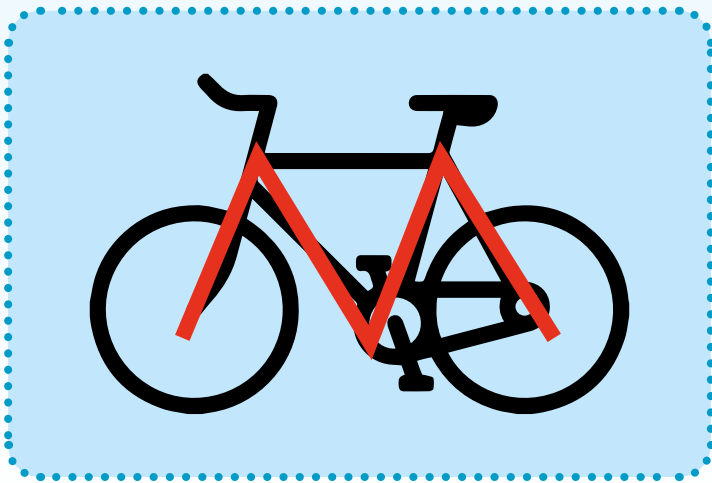
**Steering:** The handlebars can become loose. To check this, stand in front of the bike placing the front wheel between your knees and make sure the handlebars don't move from side to side.

**Pedals and chain:** Pedals must have a good grip for your shoes and should spin freely. The chain should be a dark grey colour and not a rusty brown/orange.

**Saddle:** Must be adjusted to the correct height for you and all bolts should be tightened so that the saddle does not move or wobble.

**Back tyre:** Check that it has plenty of air and that it's not too worn.

**Back brake:** Pull the bike backwards whilst pulling on the left brake to check that it stops the bike from moving backwards. Make sure the brake blocks aren't touching the tyre.



## Getting Ready For The Road

- Check that your bike is the right size: sitting on the saddle you should be able to touch the ground using the front of your feet (toes and sole).
- Make sure that your clothes don't get in the way and that they are suitable for the weather conditions.
- Hi-vis clothing is widely available and can help make you more visible to other road users and pedestrians.
- Wearing a cycle helmet will protect your head and help reduce the risk of serious injury. This helmet should fit snug/level and the straps should be either side of your ear.
- If it is dark, make sure that you have working lights and reflectors – white at the front and red at the back.
- Don't carry things on your handlebars as this can affect steering. Use a rucksack to wear on your back.



## Scooting

Scooting to school is great fun but make sure you follow these tips to help keep you safe when out and about.

- Never scoot across the road. Get off your scooter and walk across the road.
- Be careful around driveways/ car park entrances and exits, remember to look and listen for cars reversing too.
- You may need to suddenly stop so you should never be faster than a walking pace. Always stop before you reach the kerb or you may skid into the road.
- Make sure you can be seen by drivers by wearing bright and reflective clothing.

Always carry your bag on your back, anything on your handle bars can affect your balance.

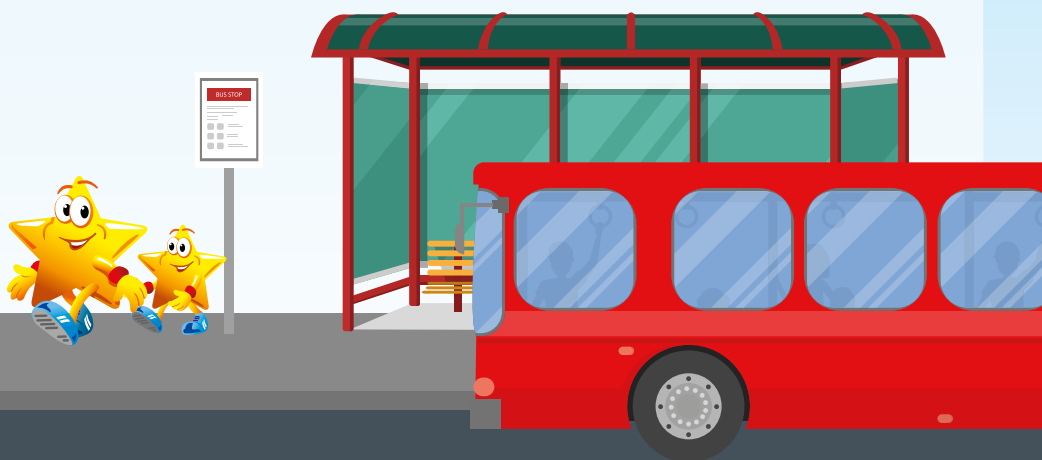


# Bus Behaviour

When you are waiting for a bus:

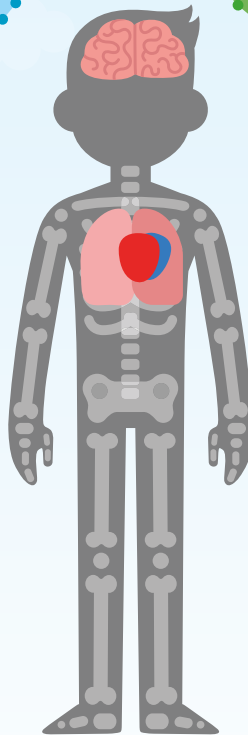
- Stand back on the pavement away from moving traffic.
- Wait for everyone to get off the bus before you get on.
- Always do what the driver asks and don't distract them.
- If you need to cross the road after getting off a bus, wait for it to move away first so that drivers can see you and you can see what's coming.

Don't forget to  
use the Green  
Cross Code  
when crossing!



# Health

There are many ways in which being active is good for you.



# School Gate Parking

The traffic outside the school gates at the start and end of the school day can cause lots of issues:

## Law

- Illegal and inconsiderate parking



## Health

- Can cause/aggravate asthma
- Worsen coughs/colds



## Pollution

- Damage the environment with the toxic fumes causing pollution
- Cars left 'idling' can cause noise pollution



## Road Safety

- Make it dangerous to cross as there are more parked cars on the road
- Possible accidents as higher levels of traffic



# Riddle

Here is a riddle for you to solve.  
What am I?

I have a chain but I'm not a prisoner

I have a frame but I'm not a photo

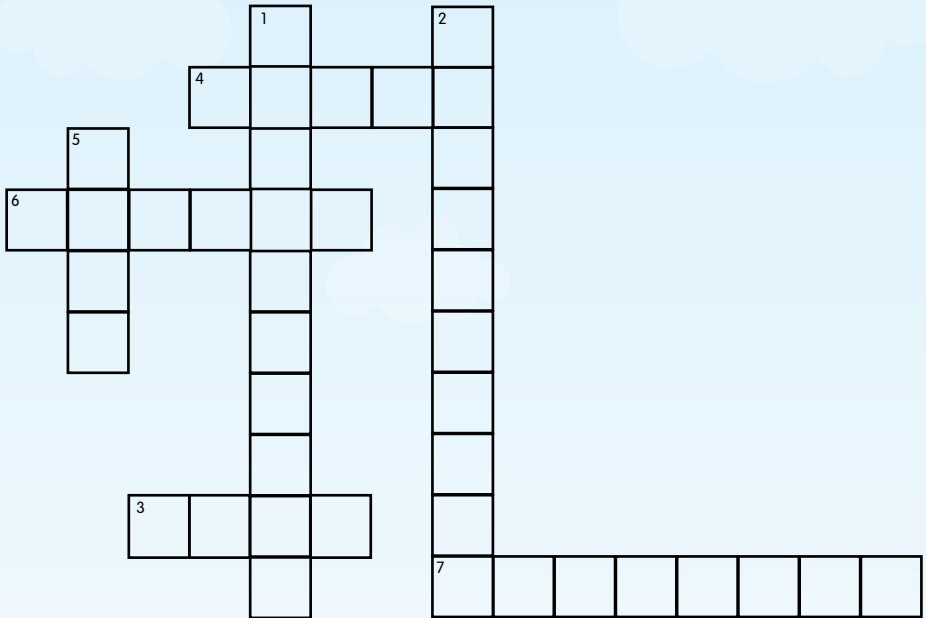
I have a saddle but I'm not a horse

I have pedals but I'm not a car

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_



## Solve The Puzzle



## ACROSS

- 3 What everything with wheels travels on
- 4 A crossing named after an animal
- 6 Keeps your head safe when cycling
- 7 To be worn at all times in a car

# DOWN

- 1 Person who walks
- 2 Walking together in a group to school
- 5 The edge of the pavement





The A\*STARS programme is a series of walking, cycling, scooting and road safety initiatives, along with training, expertise and support that is given to schools to help them to develop and promote safer, healthier lifestyle choices for all.

For more information on A\*STARS  
visit [www.astarswalsall.co.uk](http://www.astarswalsall.co.uk)

