



The JRSO's focus during November is to highlight the importance of crossing the road safely and the green cross code.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UxHBVgM9zfg>

The green cross code

In 2014, around 429 child pedestrians (aged 8-11) were killed or seriously injured. This accounted for 71% of all child road related casualties for this age group.

The Green Cross Code is taught in schools but needs to be reinforced from home - and not just by memorising the words, but by parents practicing and explaining the code to their children. Do you know it? Do you follow it? The code is for everyone.

The Green Cross Code

1. First find the safest place to cross

- If possible, cross the road at: subways, footbridges, islands, zebra, puffin, pelican or toucan crossings, or where there is a crossing point controlled by a police officer, a school crossing patrol or a traffic warden.
- Otherwise, choose a place where you can see clearly in all directions, and where drivers can see you.
- Try to avoid crossing between parked cars and on sharp bends or close to the top of a hill. Move to a space where drivers and riders can see you clearly.
- There should be space to reach the pavement on the other side.

2. Stop just before you get to the kerb

- Do not get too close to the traffic. If there is no pavement, keep back from the edge of the road but make sure you can still see approaching traffic.
- Give yourself lots of time to have a good look all around.

3. Look all around for traffic and listen

- Look all around for traffic and listen.
- Look in every direction.
- Listen carefully because you can sometimes hear traffic before you can 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 traveling between lanes of traffic.
- Do not cross diagonally.

How you can help your child and other children

- Set a good example. Use the *Green Cross Code* yourself.
- Show your child how to use the *Code* to cross the road when you're out and about.
- Let your child show you that they know how to cross the road safely - start practising on quiet roads first.

- Point out dangerous places to cross on local roads. Point out safer places as well. Some places may be safer at some times of the day than at others.
- Use pedestrian crossings even if it involves a small detour.
- Talk about the importance of not using a mobile phone or texting while crossing the road.
- Remind your child that they cannot hear traffic if listening to music through earphones or see it properly if wearing a large hood.

But let's get one thing clear: it's still important for children to be outside. Walking is good for children's health and fitness so we encourage children to walk as much as possible. Taking your child in the car for short journeys puts more traffic on the road and adds to the problem. Children can be safer on the streets if we show them how.

Crossing between parked cars

Try not to cross between parked vehicles, but if there is nowhere else to cross:

- Choose a place where there is a space between two cars and make sure that it is easy to get to the pavement on the other side of the road.
- Make sure neither car is about to move off - look for drivers in the cars, lights and listen for engines.
- Don't cross near large vehicles. You could be standing in a blind spot, where the driver cannot see you.
- Walk to the outside edge of the cars and stop. Here you can be seen by drivers and you can look all around for traffic.
- Use the Green Cross Code. When the road is clear, cross, still looking and listening as you go.