

# Road Safety Transition Newsletter

## July 2020

Early on in the year you had a visit from a member of the Road Safety Team to talk to you about how you can keep safe when travelling to your new schools in September. As it has been a while since our visit we wanted to send you a little reminder. Particularly as everyone has had to spend a lot of time at home recently due to Coronavirus.

- . Be sure to do a practice journey before terms starts. This makes sure that you know the route that you will be taking and where any safer places to cross are located along the way. It will also give you a good idea of how long your journey is going to take.

- . Stay safe by using your green cross code. It may seem obvious but remembering to stop, look and listen when near to and crossing roads saves lives.

- . Concentrate at all times. It is easy to get distracted particularly when talking to or messaging friends. It is far better to cut the conversation short rather than your life.

- . Always use the routes that you know and have used before. Never take short cuts as they may not be safe and you might end up getting lost.

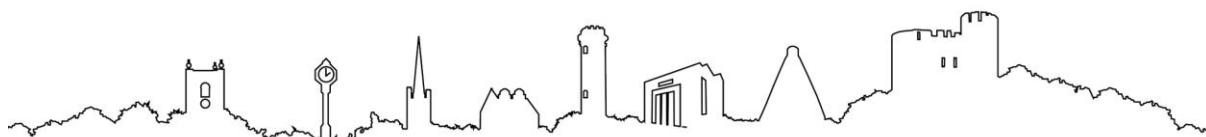
- . Try wearing or carrying something bright. Especially in Autumn and Winter as this will help make sure that you can be easily seen by other road users.

- . If you are travelling by bus, remember that services may be running differently due to Covid19 restrictions.

- . Have your emergency contact details with you at all times and make sure that whoever you live with is aware of the route that you will be taking.

- . If you will be cycling to your new school make sure that you keep your bike well maintained and check it regularly. Wearing a helmet is also highly recommended. If there are cycle paths available on your route try to use them wherever possible. You could even ask your parents/carers to get in touch with us regarding our Saturday cycle training sessions. These sessions run at the start of each month and cater for all ability levels.

- . If you are being dropped off at your new school by car or taxi remember to always wear your seatbelt. Check for other pedestrians and cyclists before opening the car door and always get out of the car on the side closest to the kerb. If you can ask whoever is dropping you off to park a little further away from the school so that you can walk the last part of your journey, this will help reduce the amount of congestion outside your school and will also help to keep everyone safer. It also has the added bonus of improving the air quality around your school.



Planning your journey is important, not just your journey to school but also any journeys out and about with your friends.

Journey planning websites will enable you to plan journeys from your home address to other local destinations. Journey planning websites are free to use and often include detailed walking routes, bus routes and cycle routes. Some websites also have a street view and/or satellite imaging options so you can view the route you will be using in close up detail. Below are a few websites that might be useful for you take a look at;

- [www.google.co.uk/maps](http://www.google.co.uk/maps)
- <https://journeyplanner.networkwestmidlands.com>
- [www.walkit.com](http://www.walkit.com)

Think about stopping distance. Cars can't stop as soon as the driver puts their foot on the brake. The faster the car is travelling the longer it will take for the car to come to a complete stop.

**Stopping distance = thinking distance + braking distance**

If you get chance take a look at this really useful website which shows short video clips explaining how stopping distance works. You can choose the speed that the car is travelling at and also add in other factors like weather conditions. It may be useful to add in the speed limit outside your new school and then think about the speed that drivers might actually be travelling at, as let's face it drivers don't always stick to the speed limit! Adding in wet weather also makes a surprising amount of difference.

[www.stoppingdistances.org.uk](http://www.stoppingdistances.org.uk)

We hope that this information is a useful reminder for you and wish you all the very best for your new journey to secondary school and beyond.

If you would like any additional road safety related information or want to know more about the training that we offer, including our Saturday cycle training sessions, please get in touch with us using the following details;

[road.safety@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:road.safety@dudley.gov.uk)

01384 815433

