



**GIVE
SPACE**



**BE
SAFE**

.....

Sharing the road

Tips for road users

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All road users have equal rights to use the highway safely.

This leaflet will help you understand why people might drive or cycle in a certain way and how you can be safe and considerate around other road users when driving or cycling.



Tips for drivers



Road position and general driving

Concentrate on your driving and do not use your mobile phone. Avoid loud noise in the car.

Cycling feels hazardous when drivers are too close, so please give cyclists space and be patient.

Expect cyclists to move out in the road to avoid potholes/drains or to be seen by oncoming traffic or vehicles waiting at junctions.

Even if there is a cycle path or cycle lane, sometimes cyclists need to be on another part of the road to make a turn or to make themselves visible.



The Law

We recommend giving 1.5m as a minimum safe distance for overtaking in slow moving traffic. If you cannot allow the minimum distance, do not overtake. At speeds of 30mph or above, the Highway Code recommends a car width may be needed to overtake safely.

Rule 139 of the Highway Code states: "give cyclists at least as much room as you would a car when overtaking" and rule 188 states "when passing a cyclist give them plenty of room". If they look over their shoulder it could mean that they may soon attempt to turn right. Give them space and time to do so.



Overtaking

Overtake a cyclist in the same way you would another vehicle.

Plan ahead and wait until the opposite carriageway is clear.

Give cyclists at least 1.5m clearance in slow moving traffic. At higher speeds or in bad weather a full car width clearance is recommended.

Do not overtake near a junction, pedestrian crossing, on a roundabout or at pinch points. **Never** overtake just before a left turn you plan to make.

Do not drive close behind cyclists or sound your horn.

Rule 66 of the Highway Code allows cyclists to ride side-by-side.



Observation

Always look for cyclists, especially at junctions.

Always check your mirrors and blind spot for cyclists, whether you are stationary or moving.

Legally, a cyclist can use the entire lane and will often take a mid-lane position to deter overtaking at vulnerable locations, like narrow roads, junctions, and blind bends.

Cyclists may not always give a signal, especially mid-junction or on a roundabout, as they need both hands for steering and braking.

If you are unsure of a cyclist's intention, wait for them to make their manoeuvre.

Tips for cyclists



Eye contact and clear intentions

Always try to make eye contact with other road users to make sure you have been seen. Keep an eye on the wheels of the vehicle to help you spot when the vehicle is starting to move.

Signal well in advance and only manoeuvre when it's safe to do so. Stop signalling when you turn.



Stay back

If you need to overtake a large vehicle in a stationary queue, only do so on the right-hand side and when it is clear the vehicle won't suddenly begin to move. Only overtake when there is no oncoming traffic and move ahead of the vehicle to ensure you are visible to the driver.

Large vehicles tend to move to the right before swinging into a left turn. Do not ride along their left side.



Look and listen

Check what is happening around you at all times. Look well ahead for obstructions such as: drains, potholes and parked vehicles, so that you do not have to swerve suddenly to avoid them. Check behind you.

Give yourself as much opportunity to hear the traffic around you and avoid using headphones. Some large vehicles have 'turning left' warnings.



Avoid blind spots

Lorries have blind spots in front of the cab, on both sides and behind the vehicle. If you can't see the mirrors, then they can't see you.



Cycle training

Training can improve your confidence when cycling on roads and can help you to position yourself correctly on the road and around other vehicles.



Don't be floored by doors

Leave plenty of room (1.5m) when passing parked vehicles. Doors could be opened into your path.



Lights and being seen

At night and when there is poor visibility you must have lights on the front and rear of your bike when cycling. It is advisable you carry small lights or batteries to ensure you are never left cycling without lights when they are legally required.



Ride on the road, not in the gutter

Ride at least 0.75m away from the kerb. It's safer to ride in the middle of your lane if there's not enough room for a car to overtake you.



The close pass initiative is supported by the Police and Crime Commissioners of Dorset and Devon & Cornwall, Cycling UK and Cycle Engage UK.

