

## The history of the Green Cross Code

The Green Cross Code was launched in 1970. It replaced the Kerb Drill, which was a pedestrian safety campaign with a military style "Halt! Quick march!" instructions. However, this was deemed too confusing for children and was replaced by the Green Cross Code campaign. It is a step-by-step procedure for pedestrians cross the road safely. It has changed slightly in variation over the years, but the concept is the same.

To promote the campaign the 'Green Cross Code Man' was created a costumed superhero to teach the Green Cross Code to young children. Interestingly, David Prowse MBE played the character in a series of Public Information Films, of which ran from 1975 to 1990. David Prowse, of course, is most famous for playing Darth Vader in the Star Wars films.

The Green Cross Code Man had the power to teleport from his station at 'Green Cross Control' to any location where children need instruction to cross the road safely. His slogan was "I won't be there when *you* cross the road, so always use the Green Cross Code".

The Green Cross Code Man was revived for Road Safety Week 2014, with David Prowse returning to the role. This time, he was teaching adults about the dangers of using smartphones, wearing headphones and listening to music while crossing the road.

### What is the Green Cross Code?

There are six parts to the Green Cross Code.

**THINK! First, find the safest place to cross** Look out for the following as safe places to cross;

- Where you can use 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, lollipop person or a traffic warden.
- If you cannot see a crossing, cross where you can see in all directions and where drivers and riders can see you clearly.
- Never cross between parked cars, on blind bends or close to the brow of a hill.

### **STOP! Stand on the pavement near the kerb**

- Just before you get to the kerb, stop.
- Stand on the pavement near the kerb and make sure that you can see the traffic. DO NOT step on to the road.
- 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.

### **LOOK - USE YOUR EYES AND EARS! Look all around for traffic and listen**

- Look all around for traffic and listen. Make sure that you listen carefully for traffic that you can't see.
- Look in every direction. Check to your right hand side first, then check to your left and then to your right again before you cross.
- Watch out for bicycles or people on rollerblades. You often don't hear them but they travel very fast.
- Beware that one-way streets, have all of the traffic moving in the same direction.

### **WAIT UNTIL IT IS SAFE TO CROSS! If traffic is coming, let it pass**

- If traffic is coming, let it pass.
- Once the traffic has passed, look around again and listen.
- Look all around again and listen.
- If you are waiting at a crossing then wait until the cars have stopped or, at pelican, toucan, puffin or pegasus crossings, the green man shows, before you cross.
- If you are not at a crossing, wait until it is safe to cross.
- 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.

**LOOK AND LISTEN! 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.
- NEVER run across the road because you might fall over and you might not get up in time

**ARRIVE ALIVE! Keep looking and listening**

- Look and keep looking while you cross the road.