



Staying street safe

**All you need to know about
road safety:**

- Crossing safely
- Playing safely
- Travelling safely
- Surfing for safety



Department for
Infrastructure
An Roinn
Bonneagair

www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Crossing safely

There are lots of safer places for you to cross the road, such as a:

- **Zebra Crossing - page 3**
- **Pelican Crossing - page 4**
- **Puffin Crossing - page 5**
- **Toucan Crossing - page 6**
- **Footbridge - page 7**
- **Subway - page 8**
- **Traffic Island - page 9**

Always use the **Green Cross Code** (page 2) whenever you're crossing the road and remember to keep looking and listening for traffic as you cross.

You also need to know how to cross at **traffic lights** (page 10) and **between parked cars** (page 11) if you have to, and with the help of **School Crossing Patrol** or **Police Officers** (page 12).

For more road safety information, you can check out the DfI Road Safety website at www.nidirect.gov.uk/roadsafety

Green Cross Code

Walking

When walking to school, to your friend's house or anywhere in between, use the pavement where there is one. It's important to follow simple rules before crossing any road. These rules are called the Green Cross Code.

- 1 First find a safer place to cross, then stop.
- 2 Stand on the pavement, but not too close to the edge of the kerb.
- 3 Look and listen in all directions for any traffic and think about what you are doing.
- 4 Cross when there is no traffic and there is enough time to get to the other side without running. If you are unsure don't cross.
- 5 Keep looking and listening for traffic as you cross the road.
- 6 Walk straight across the road. Do not run.

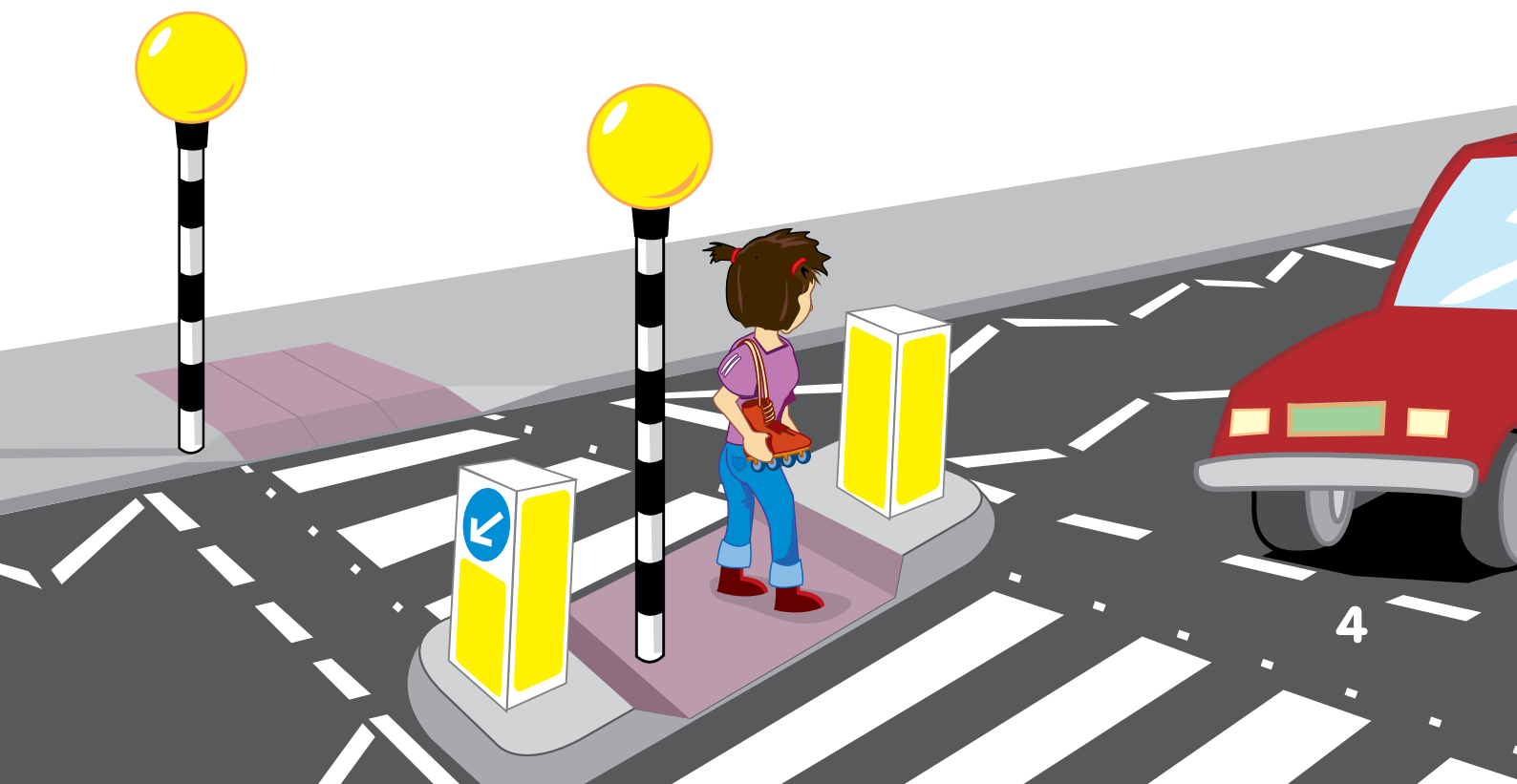


Crossing at Zebra Crossings

- 1 Zebra crossings have black and white stripes, just like a zebra.
- 2 Traffic should stop if drivers see you waiting to cross.
- 3 Wait on the pavement until all the traffic has stopped.
- 4 When it is safe to do so, walk straight across the crossing.
- 5 Make sure you keep looking and listening for traffic as you cross.

If the zebra crossing has a traffic island in the middle, you must treat this as two crossings.

- First cross to the traffic island using the Green Cross Code from Page 2, then stop.
- Use the Green Cross Code again to cross the second part of the road. Remember to keep looking and listening for traffic.

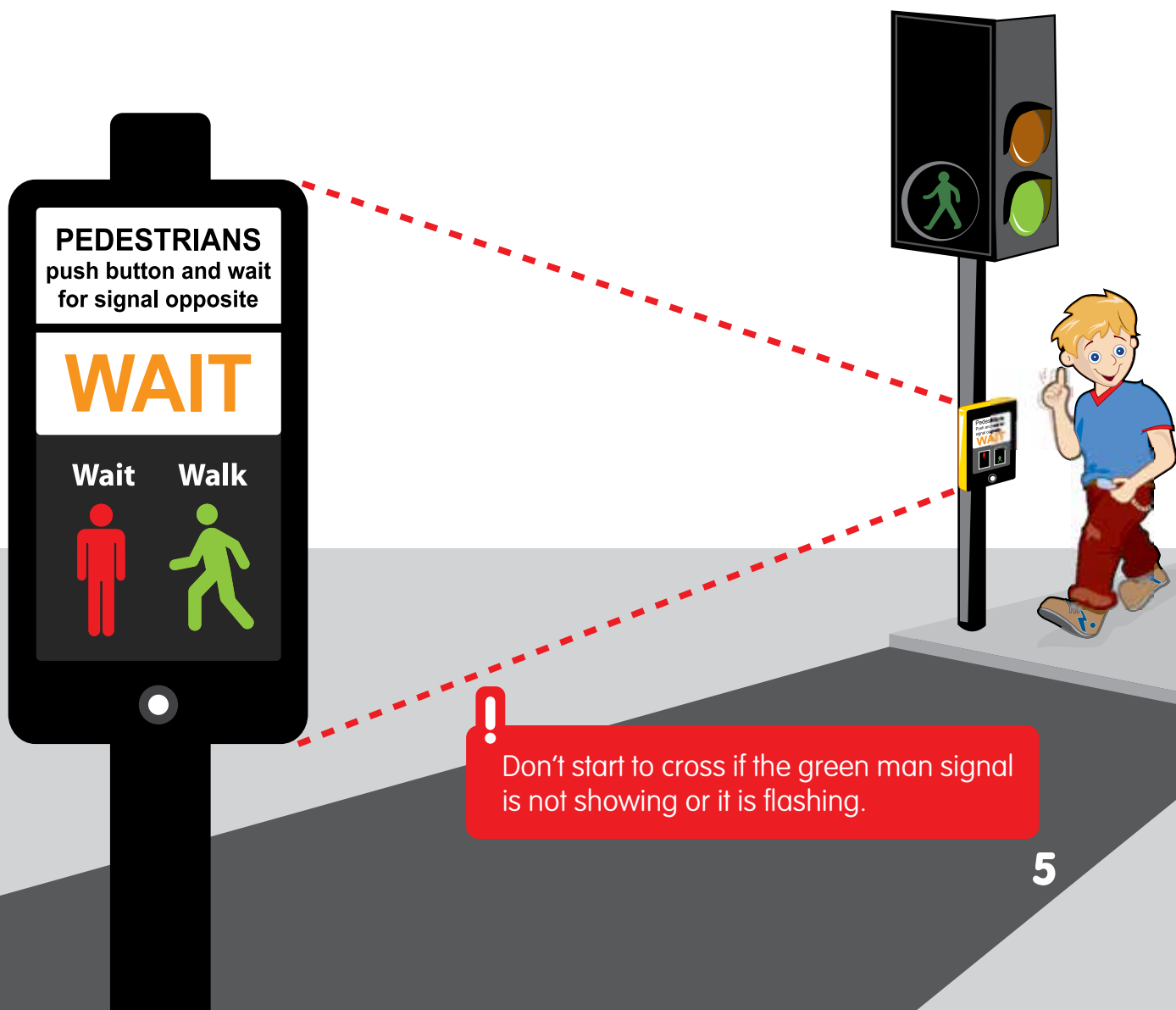


Crossing at Pelican Crossings

- Pelican crossings have a **green man** and **red man** signal and a box.
- When you want to cross, push the button and wait for the **green man** signal on the post on the opposite side of the road, before you cross.

You must push the button to stop the traffic.

- When the traffic has stopped and the **green man** signal is showing, you can start to walk across the road.
- Keep looking and listening for traffic as you cross.

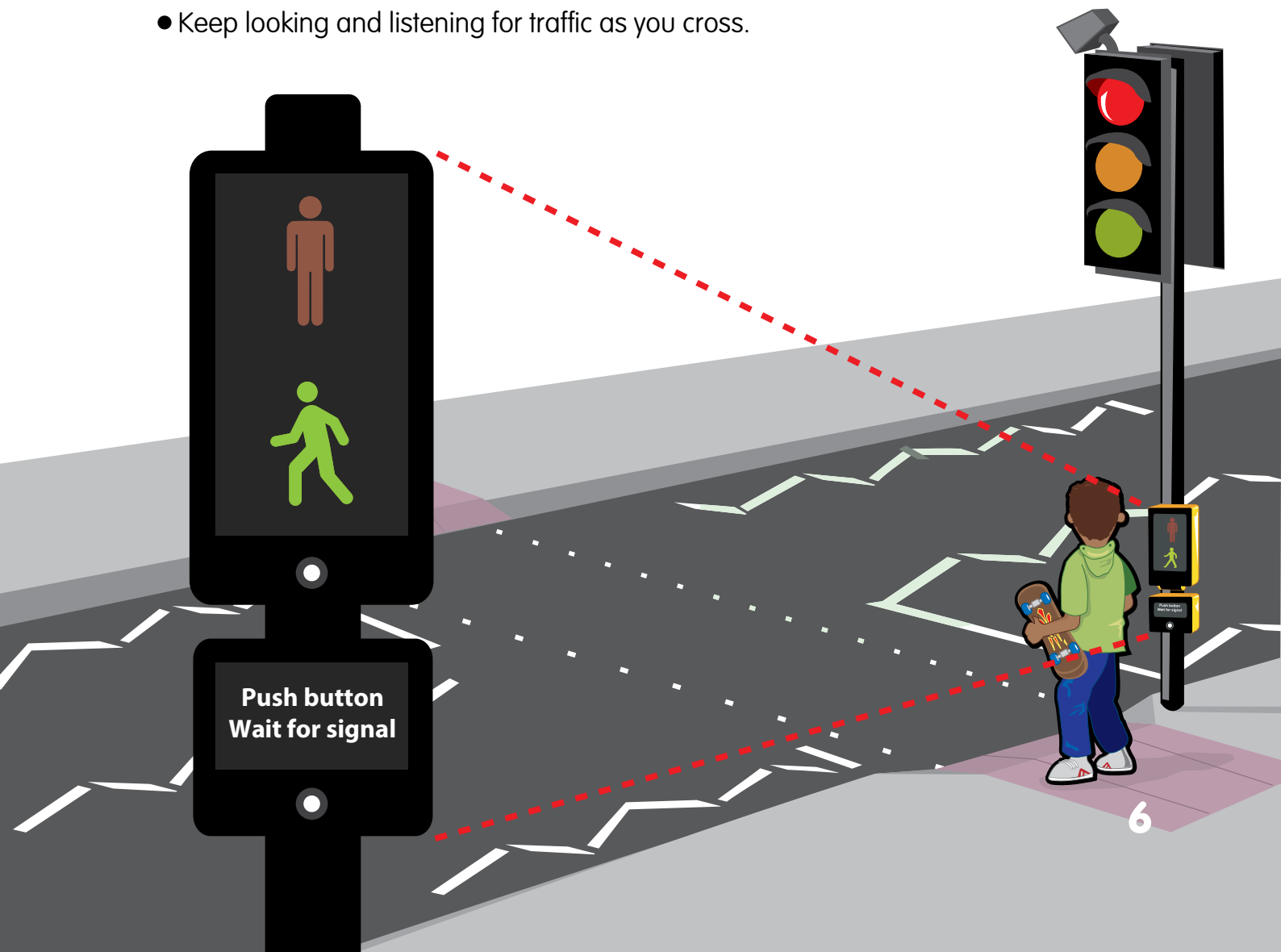


Crossing at Puffin Crossings

- Puffin crossings are very similar to pelican crossings.
- They have the **green man** and **red man** signals and a box with a button to press.
- The **green man** and **red man** signals are on a post beside you, where you are waiting to cross. There is no signal across the road.

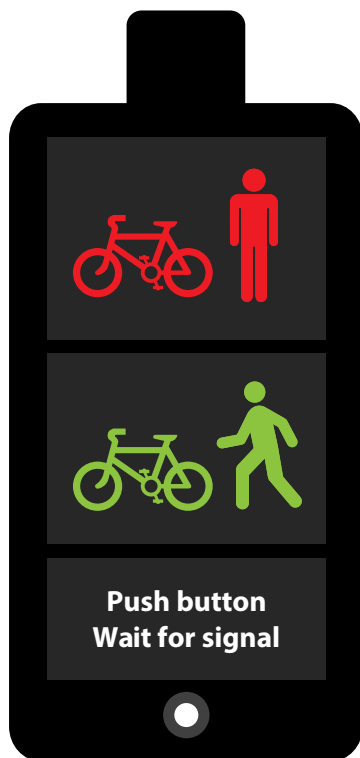
You must keep looking at the signal post to see when it is safe to cross.

- Only cross on the **green man** signal and always check that the traffic has stopped.
- Keep looking and listening for traffic as you cross.



Crossing at Toucan Crossings

- Toucan crossings have space for pedestrians and cyclists to go across the road at the same time.
- As well as the **green man** signal for pedestrians, there is a **green cycle** signal for people on bikes.
- You must push the button, like at a pelican crossing, to stop the traffic.
- Always check that all the traffic has stopped before crossing.
- Keep looking and listening for traffic as you cross.



! Never cross the road if the red man signal or red cycle signal is showing.



Using a footbridge

- Footbridges are designed so pedestrians can walk over the road on a bridge.
- If you see one, make sure you use it to cross the road.
- Never throw anything from a footbridge as it is extremely dangerous and could cause a serious incident.



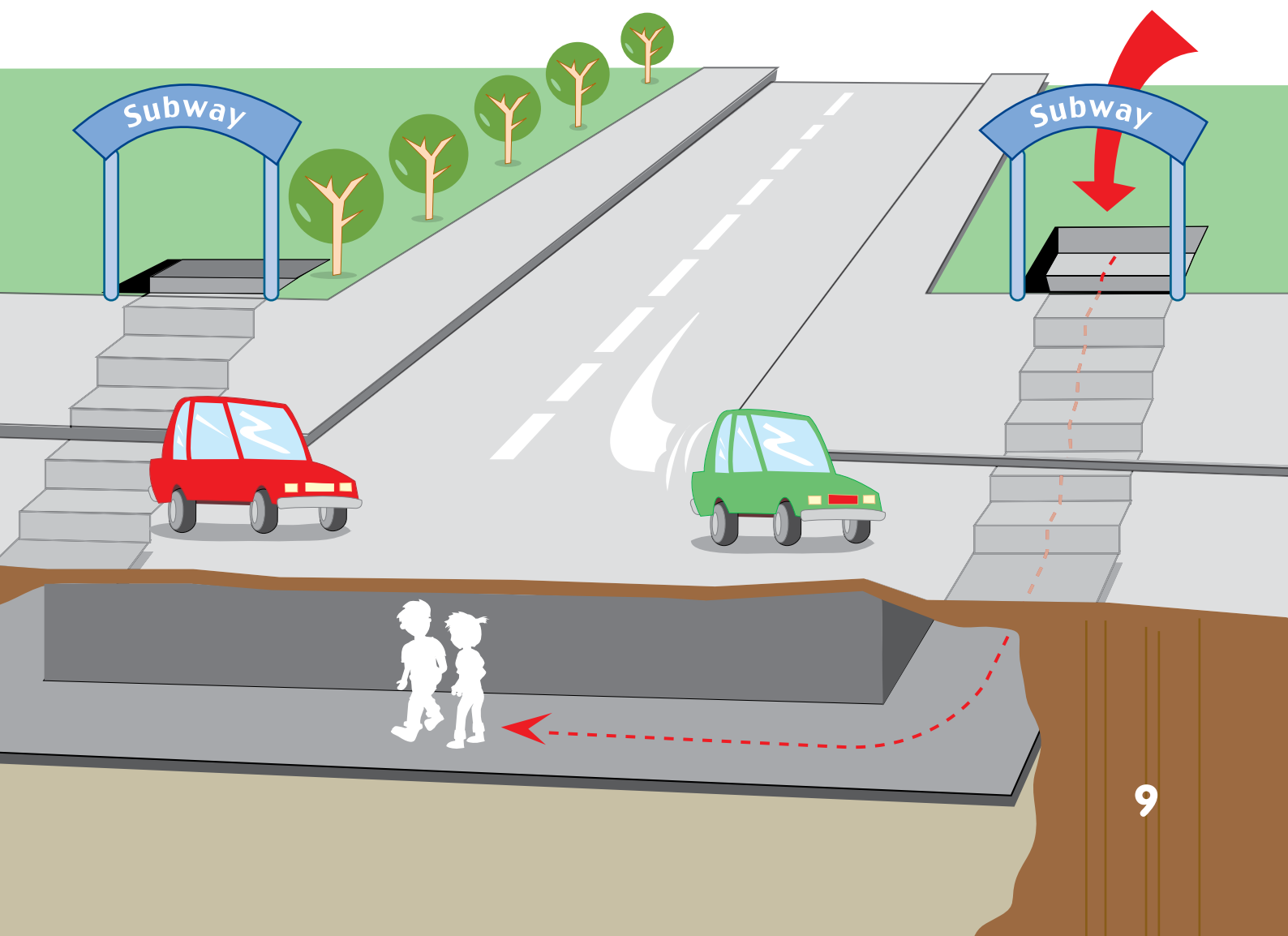
A footbridge is one of the safer places to cross the road.

Using a Subway

- Subways are tunnels under the road.
- There is no traffic in the tunnel, only pedestrians.
- If you have to use a subway, try to be with a friend or an adult that you know and trust.

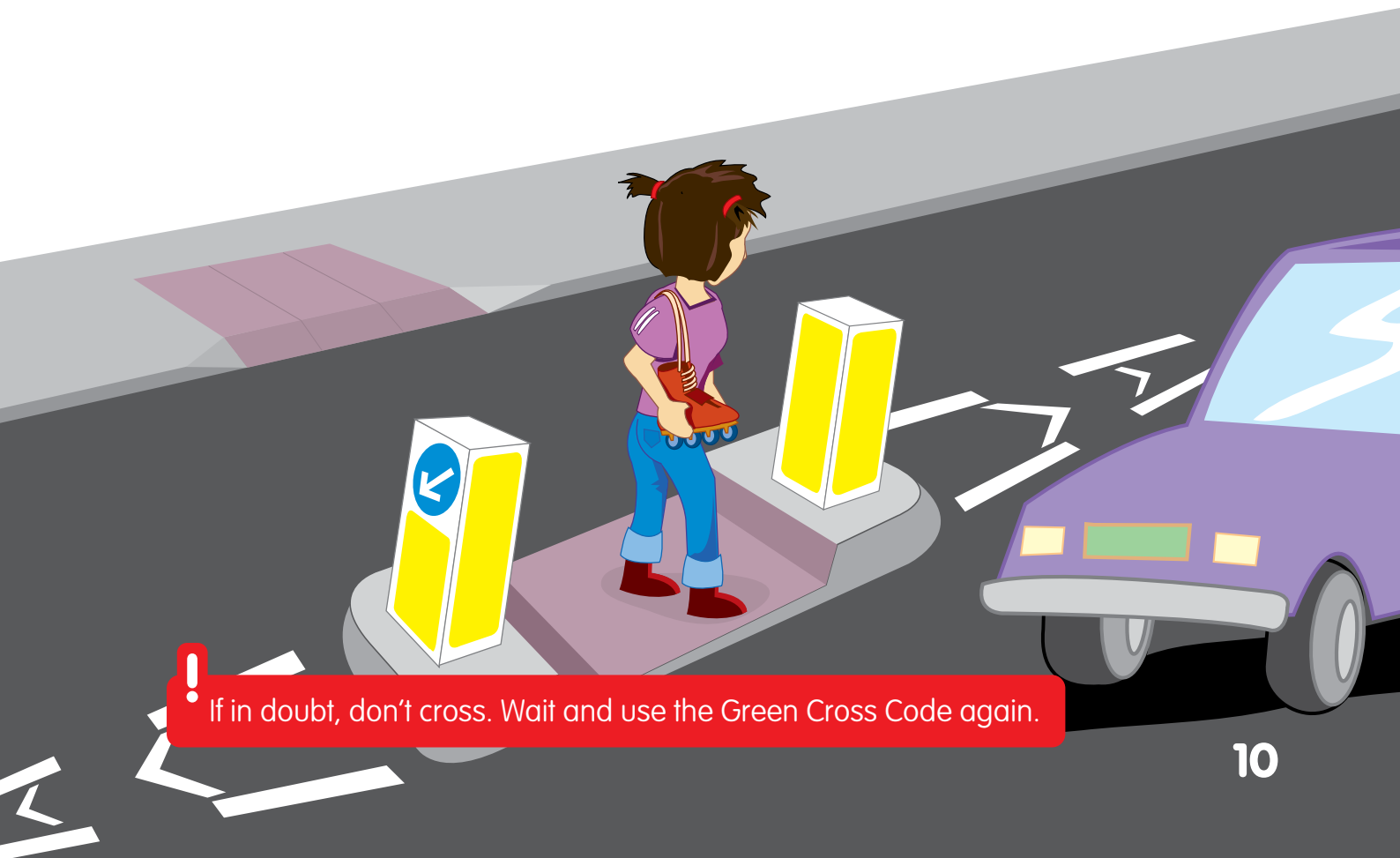


If you feel unsure about using a subway, you could find another safe place to cross and use the Green Cross Code instead.



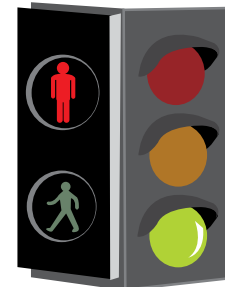
Crossing at Traffic Islands

- Traffic islands usually have yellow and white bollards in the middle of the road.
- The bollards have a blue circle sign with a white arrow inside for drivers.
- Traffic does not stop for pedestrians at traffic islands.
- If you cross at a traffic island, you must treat the road as two roads.
- Follow the Green Cross Code from page 2 and stop when you reach the middle.
- Use the Green Cross Code again to make sure you get across the road safely.



Crossing at Traffic Lights

- Some traffic lights are only for dealing with traffic and not pedestrians.
- At some sets of traffic lights, you might find a special signal for pedestrians.
- This is the **green man** and **red man** signal.
- There is no button to push at traffic lights. The traffic is stopped automatically. Remember to use the Green Cross Code.
- Be extra careful if crossing at traffic lights.
- Remember to check all around for traffic - that includes over your shoulder, just in case traffic is turning around the corner.



Wearing a hooded coat or jacket? Remember you can't see or hear clearly if your hood is up. Make sure you keep looking and listening all around for traffic.

Crossing between parked cars

- You should always try to choose a place to cross without parked cars. However, sometimes there might be parked cars right along a road, so you need to cross between them.
- Be very careful. First make sure there are no drivers in the cars you are going to walk between so the cars won't move. You should also check there are no drivers in the cars on the other side of the road as they could move off before you get safely across.
- Carefully walk out between the parked cars and stop at the edge of the car. The edge of the car is like the kerb. Follow the Green Cross Code and remember to stop, look, listen and think before crossing the road.



Remember drivers may not be able to see you when you're standing between parked cars.

School crossing patrol or police officers

- These people can help you cross the road safely.
- Wait until they signal you to cross.



Always cross in front of them but keep looking and listening for traffic.

Playing safely

Always play away from roads. When you're near a road, carry balls and other stuff in a bag so you don't drop them into the road and distract drivers.

Cycling

Riding your bike lets you go places and hang out with your friends. When you're using pedal power, remember our tips...

Be seen

Clothing - light, bright colours and reflective and fluorescent materials will help drivers and pedestrians see you better.

Lights - by law, at night, you need at least one red light on the back and one white light on the front, as well as reflectors.

Wear it right

Cycle helmets should be done up securely and fit well.

Be heard

With a bell on your bike, you can warn others you're coming.

Be aware of others using the road

Make sure others using the road have seen you – check by making eye contact with drivers where you can.

Never squeeze between a large vehicle and the edge of the road – they definitely can't see you there, and be careful of vehicles turning left in front of you.

When using a path that's designed for cyclists and pedestrians to share, make sure you leave space for pedestrians.

Know the road rules

Get trained - if you're not sure how to cycle safely, ask your school about the Cycling Proficiency Scheme.

See www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/road-safety-education-resources/road-safety-primary-school-children



Rollerblading, skateboarding and riding your scooter

Before you strap on your blades, jump on your board or get ready to scoot off on your scooter, remember...

- A helmet, wrist guards and knee and elbow pads will help you stay safe
- Skate in special areas, like skate parks.
- Follow the same rules you would when cycling.
- Watch out for pedestrians, and remember to check driveways before you cross them to be sure no one is reversing out.
- If you're on a skateboard or scooter, always dismount and walk across the road.



Travelling safely

Being a good car passenger

Traffic can be dangerous if the driver is not concentrating or going too fast. Here are some very important rules when you're in a car.

- **Always** wear your seatbelt.
- **Never** distract the driver.
- **Never** lean out or throw anything from the window.
- **Never** open the car door when the car is moving.
- **Never** block the rear view mirror.
- **Always** get out on the pavement side if possible.
- **Never** get into a stranger's car.

If you're sitting in the back seat, it's much safer to get out on the pavement side. If that's not possible, always remember to look out for passing cars and cyclists before opening the door.



If you're less than 135cm tall, you need a car seat or booster seat. It's the law. If you're taller, you don't need a car seat, but you always need to wear a seatbelt. That's the law too.



On the bus

Taking the bus is an easy way to get around town.

- To stay safe, make sure you wait at the bus stop and keep back from the edge of the kerb.
- When the bus arrives, wait for people to get off before you get on.
- Never distract the driver.
- Wear a seatbelt if one is available.
- If you can't find a seat, remember to hold on tightly to one of the poles or railings in case the driver has to stop suddenly.
- If you need to cross the road after getting off the bus, wait for it to move off first, and then use the Green Cross Code from page 2 to help you cross the road safely. If possible, walk to a safer crossing place (page 1).
- If you are only going a short distance, why not walk? It's good exercise and you may get to see things you might miss on the bus.



Out and about

Being seen

Drivers are more likely to see you if you're wearing lighter or brighter coloured clothing – especially when it's dark. You'll be seen even better at night if you wear reflective clothes, as they reflect car headlights. You can buy reflective stickers from cycle shops. Put them on your school bag or backpack (but ask your parent or carer first).

Weather warning

Ice, snow and even wet leaves on the ground not only make it more slippery when you're walking on the roads and pavements, but drivers will find it harder to control their car and will take longer to stop. If it's rainy, misty, or foggy, they may be less likely to see you too. So remember to be extra careful in bad weather! If you wear a coat with a hood, you need to be extra careful when your hood is up as you may not be able to see or hear traffic coming from behind you or from the side. If possible, take your hood down while crossing the road and remember to use the Green Cross Code.

Distractions

Listening to music, talking on the phone, or talking with friends while you're walking can be fun, but it can also distract you from traffic. When you're crossing the road make sure to take off your earphones, hang up your phone, and pause your conversation until you're safely across.



Helping parents and carers be street safe

If you're driven to school, remind whoever drops you off not to park on the zig-zag lines outside your school, or on a crossing. The lines are there to make it easier for people to cross the road safely. Your driver also needs to remember to stop for the School Crossing Patrol.

Though it may take a bit longer, it's much safer to park in a quiet road nearby and walk to school.



You could even take the healthier option – leave the car at home and walk the whole way!

Travelling abroad

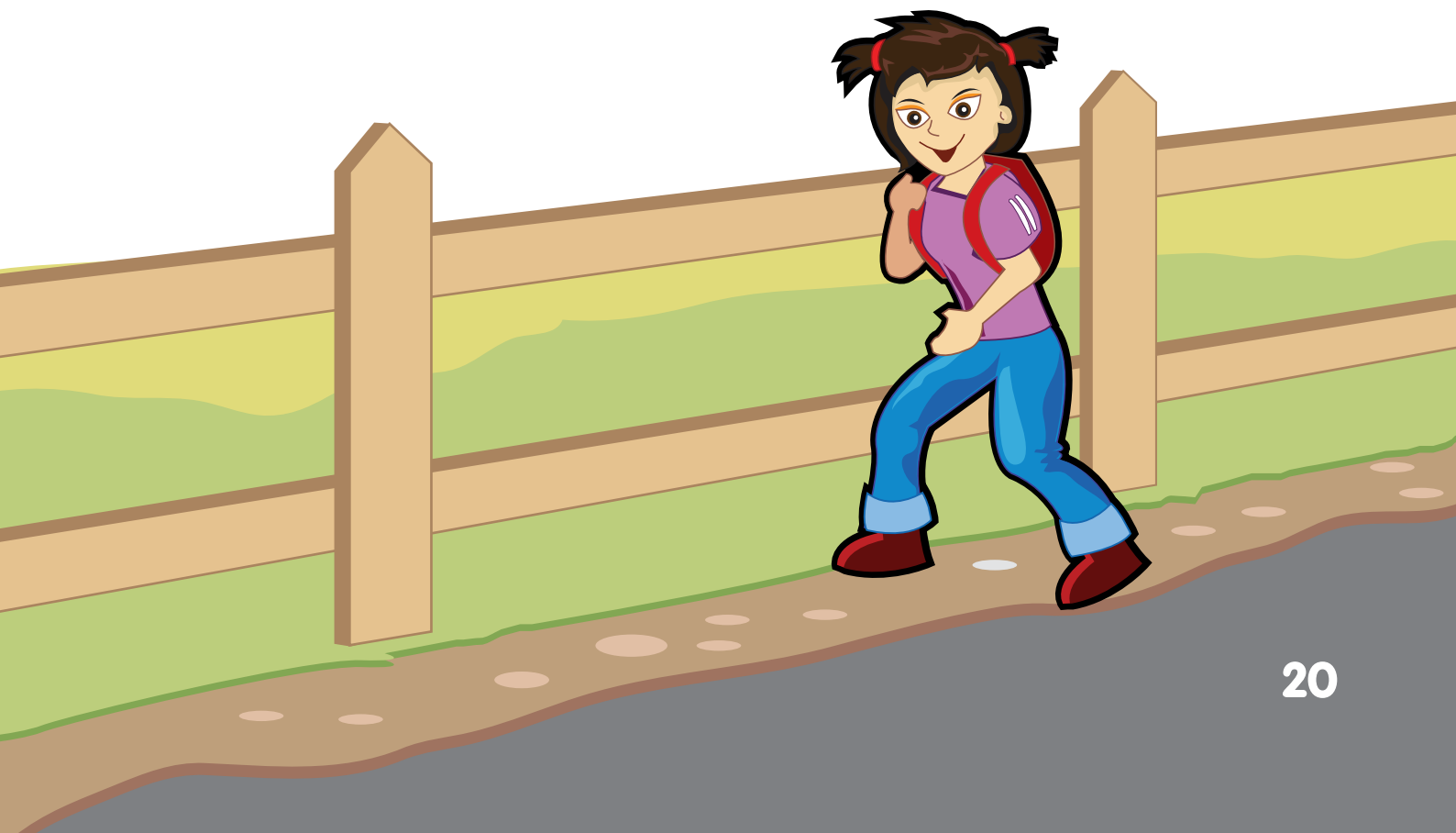
We all love having fun in the sun! If you're lucky enough to go abroad, remember our top tips for staying street safe!

Unlike the UK, many countries drive on the right hand side of the road. So make sure you know which direction the traffic will be coming from and don't forget to follow the Green Cross Code (page 2) whenever you're crossing the road. Lots of road rules are different in other countries, so be extra careful. For example, don't expect drivers to stop for you at zebra crossings, as it's optional in some countries. You might also find that there aren't pavements or street lights.



Walking on Rural Roads

Closer to the countryside, you may find that the roads are narrower, with no pavements or streetlights. If there's no pavement, you might find there's a grass verge or bank that you can walk on. If you have to walk on the road, make sure you stay as far away from the vehicles as possible. Don't walk in the same direction as vehicles are driving; face oncoming traffic so you can see vehicles coming towards you and can check they've seen you. Speed limits are also different on rural roads so remember that, although the road may be quiet, vehicles may be travelling quickly nearby, so you need to stay alert. Make sure you're as visible as possible and, if you're somewhere without street lights, it's a good idea to carry a torch at night.



Animals on the Road

Riding Horses or Ponies

- Check that your horse or pony is properly shod and the saddle and bridle correctly adjusted.
- Make sure you can control your horse. If your horse is nervous, ride with other less nervous horses.
- Before you move off or turn, always look around to see if it is safe, give a clear arm signal and move off with both hands on the reins.
- Avoid roundabouts whenever possible. If you have to use one, keep to the left and look out for traffic coming onto the roundabout from other roads. Signal left before you leave the roundabout.
- You must wear an approved safety helmet and fasten it securely. Wear boots or shoes with hard soles and heels.
- When you lead a horse, always keep yourself between it and the traffic.
- Make sure other road users can see you by day and night. Fit fluorescent/reflective leg bands to your horse and wear a fluorescent/reflective jacket.
- It is safer not to ride at night, but if you have to you should fit a safety light to the offside stirrup, showing white to the front and red to the rear.

Taking Care of Dogs

- Do not let your dog out by itself. Keep it on a short lead when walking on the pavement, road or a cycle path and keep between the dog and the traffic.
- If you have a dog in the car, make sure it and any other animal is restrained so it cannot distract the driver or cause injury if there is a collision. Put the animal on a lead before getting out of the car.



Mobile Devices and iPods

- When you are tuned into your mobile device you are effectively tuned out from the outside world. You must concentrate on the task that matters most whether it be walking or cycling.
- You must not use or text from a mobile phone while crossing the road.
- You cannot always hear traffic when listening to music through earphones.
- Remember to remove your earphones when crossing the road or cycling.



Surfing for safety

Useful websites

You can surf the web for more useful road safety facts.

Here are some of our favourite sites:

www.think.gov.uk/

Learn about road markings, the Green Cross Code and much more.

www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/walking-school

Find out more about the benefits of walking to school

www.roadsafetyweek.org.uk?

All you need to know about Road Safety Week.

www.iwalktoschool.org

Find out more about International Walk to School Month.

If you find other useful websites, write them in the space below: