

Highway Code Changes



The changes being made by the Government on 29 January introduce a new 'hierarchy of road users'.

The new hierarchy explains that those in charge of vehicles that can cause the greatest harm in the event of a collision bear the greatest responsibility to take care and reduce the danger they pose to others. This principle applies most strongly to drivers of large goods and passenger vehicles, vans, cars and motorcycles.



Pass people riding a horse or driving a horse-drawn vehicle at speeds under 10 mph and allow at least 2 metres of space.



People cycling may ride in the centre of the road or two abreast for their own safety, whilst allowing others to overtake when it is safe for them to do so. People walking, cycling or riding a horse, to have regard for their own and other road users' safety.



Allow at least 2 metres of space and keep to a low speed when passing a person who is walking in the road.



Leave at least 1.5 metres when overtaking people cycling at speeds of up to 30mph, and give them more space when overtaking at higher speeds.



Drivers should now use their mirrors before opening car doors. Encouraging people driving vehicles to open their doors with the hand furthest from the door, to help them look over their shoulder behind them to see people cycling or walking nearby.



Other more vulnerable road users have a responsibility to reduce danger to people walking. None of this detracts from the responsibility of ALL road users, including giving people walking across and people cycling going straight ahead priority when turning in and out of junctions.

Most of the changes reinforce existing good driving behaviour.