

Chairs Announcement – Changes to the Highway Code

Jane Deeley (Road Safety Manager – Education) has highlighted that there are to be changes to the Highway Code from 29 January 2022. However, there is not yet anything official yet from Department for Transport in terms of publicity assets around the changes to the Highway Code, although they have promised there will be a THINK publicity campaign 'soon'.

In the meantime there is further information on the outcomes of the Government's 2021 consultation on the proposed change here: [Government response to the review of The Highway Code - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/government-response-to-the-review-of-the-highway-code)

Attached is a summary table of the changes from the gov.uk website, which can be shared.

Major changes include:

- **The introduction of a hierarchy of responsibility of road users.** Drivers of vehicles that can cause the greatest harm in the event of a collision bear the greatest responsibility to take care and reduce danger for others. There is emphasis throughout on everyone sharing roads and other routes safely with other road users
- **Priority for pedestrians at junctions.** Drivers, motorcyclists and cyclists should give way to pedestrians crossing or waiting to cross a road into which or from which they are turning. You should give way to pedestrians who are waiting to cross at a zebra crossing and pedestrians or cyclists waiting at a parallel crossing (previously only when actually crossing)
- **Priority for cyclists, riders and horse-drawn vehicles at junctions.** Drivers and motorcyclists should not cut across the path of cyclists, riders and horse-drawn vehicles going ahead when you are turning at a junction, in the same way that you should not cut across any other road user.
- **Clarification on road positioning for cyclists,** who are advised to ride in the centre of the lane in some situations to make themselves as visible as possible, especially at the approach to junctions or road narrowings where it would be unsafe for drivers to overtake. *(This is taught in Bikeability training)*
- **More information on safely overtaking motorcyclists, cyclists, horse-riders and horse-drawn vehicles and filtering by cyclists.**
- **Adopting what is known as the 'Dutch Reach' technique when opening the doors of a parked vehicle.** Use the hand on the opposite side to the door you are opening (e.g. use your left hand to open a door on your right hand side) This will make you turn your head to look over your shoulder and avoid injury to cyclists or motorcyclists passing on the road or to people on the pavement. Video here: [The Dutch Reach #TeachTheReach! | Cycling UK - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

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