



Vulnerable Road Users



PEDESTRIANS: In 2019 across Cheshire there were 241 reported collisions involving pedestrians and 616 reported, across Merseyside.

- Look out for pedestrians crossing between parked vehicles and close to schools.
- There may be children stepping out between cars.
- Pedestrians wearing dark clothing can also be very difficult to spot when crossing the road especially in the dark or poor light.
- Be aware of pedestrians using mobile phones or wearing headphones, they may not be aware of what is happening around them.
- Elderly people can take longer to cross the road, be patient, don't rush them. Remember, pedestrians have right of way when crossing the road so be prepared to give way (HC 170)
- Pavement parking can cause danger and great inconvenience for pedestrians including the elderly, disabled and partially sighted. As well as parents with prams and small children when passing with wheelchairs and pushchairs.



HORSE RIDERS: Look out for horses being led or ridden on the road, particularly close to stables and bridle paths.

- Consider that the horse and rider may be young and/or inexperienced. When you see a horse and rider on the road slow down to a maximum speed of 15mph.
- When behind a horse rider be patient, don't sound your horn or rev the engine.
- Pass wide and slow when overtaking (if safe to do so) and give at least a cars width if possible.
- Drive slowly away after overtaking. Horses are powerful but vulnerable animals and can be easily scared by noise. They may panic around fast moving vehicles.



MOTORCYCLISTS: In 2019 across Cheshire there were 213 reported collisions involving motorcyclists and 187 reported, across Merseyside.

- It is often difficult to see motorcyclists and cyclists, especially when they are approaching from behind, emerging from junctions and at roundabouts, overtaking or filtering through traffic.
- Always look out for them before you emerge from a junction; they could be approaching faster than you think. Check twice for bikers! (HC 211).
- When turning right across a line of slow-moving or stationary traffic, look out for cyclists or motorcyclists on the inside of the traffic you are crossing.
- Motorcyclists and cyclists may need to avoid uneven road surfaces and obstacles such as drain covers or oily, wet patches on the road. Be prepared for any sudden change of direction they may have to make.



CYCLISTS: In 2019 across Cheshire there were 290 reported collisions involving cyclists and 350 reported, across Merseyside.

- Cyclists are clearly more vulnerable than car users – take particular care when nearby and give them plenty of room at all times. If you're not sure about the intention of another road user – including cyclists – hold back rather than wrongly assuming.
- Watch out for cyclists coming up on your near side when turning left or moving over to the left – check your mirrors and blind spots carefully.
- Avoid overtaking a cyclist immediately prior to turning left.
- Give as much room as practically possible when overtaking a bike - Highway Code rule 163 recommends one car's width – they may have to move out to avoid hazards like drains, potholes or debris on the road.