






As you start secondary school, you will become more independent and may start travelling to school on your own. Your new journey will probably be longer and will involve using busier roads.

Many people your age think that 'Road Safety' is just for younger children and that you already know how to stay safe near roads. After all, you've crossed roads thousands of times so you must be doing it right!

However, it is your age group who are most at risk from being killed or injured as a pedestrian rather than very young children.



# MORE THAN **2100** CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF **16** ARE KILLED OR SERIOUSLY INJURED ON BRITAIN'S ROADS EVERY YEAR. AND IT IS **YOUR** AGE GROUP THAT IS MOST AT RISK...

Secondary school children are much more likely to be seriously injured or killed as a result of a road traffic collision than younger children.

Children aged 11-15 are almost six times as likely to be killed or seriously injured than those aged 0-4 and three times more likely than those aged 5-10. So, you see it's not a subject that is 'just for younger children'.

## WHY ARE **YOU** AT RISK? **DID YOU NOTICE THE CAR ON THE FRONT COVER?** **LOOK AGAIN NOW!**

Most people don't notice the car until they are asked to look for it. The point is, it is really easy to miss something if you aren't looking for it especially if you are being overloaded with other information.

The same thing can happen when we are near roads. Most collisions involving a person your age are caused by the child walking or running out when a car is coming. But why would someone your age do this? You know how to cross safely, you know that if you are hit by a car you can be seriously injured or worse. So, why are people your age stepping onto a road without checking if it is safe first?

ONE WORD ... **DISTRACTIONS**

# DISTRACTIONS!

Whether you are walking, cycling, getting on and off buses, or just hanging around near a road, there is one common problem – distractions.

It's impossible to concentrate properly on two things at the same time. Paying attention to your phone, listening to music or even just messing around with friends instead of paying attention to your surroundings can, and often does, result in devastating consequences.

Even if you are paying full attention to crossing safely you still need to think about where you cross.

Crossing a road near junctions, parked cars, buses and other large vehicles dramatically reduces your view of the road and any vehicles that may be coming.

This also means that drivers often won't see you until the last minute, leaving them little or no time to stop.

Remember if you get off a bus, wait until it has pulled away from the bus stop before you try to cross. Even better try and walk away and use a pedestrian crossing if available.

Distractions can kill. Even if you aren't actually trying to cross over a road to get to the other side you can become distracted and end up running out in front of a car.

Don't expect a second chance – keep yourself safe whenever you are near a road.



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