

The number of vulnerable road users is increasing. This in turn is leading to a higher number being involved in collisions. With this in mind, it's essential for us to be able to identify vulnerable road users, understand their characteristics and act accordingly and responsibly.

The new Highway Code (published Jan 2022, excluding Northern Ireland) recognises vulnerable road users and newly prioritises them in many instances. You must note these changes as they will change expected behaviour on road.

## The Facts.

### A road user is vulnerable due to:

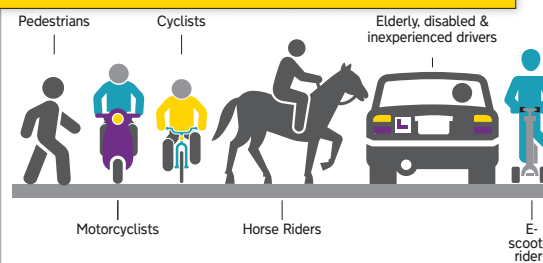


**lack of protection**, cyclists & pedestrians have very **little** or **no** impact protection.



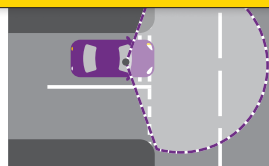
**capability**, a child is less likely to consider all the danger when crossing a road.

### Vulnerable Road Users can be further defined as:



More than half of all road traffic deaths are among vulnerable road users.<sup>1</sup>

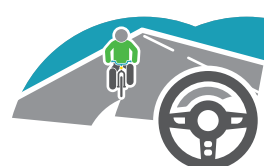
### Commonalities across all vulnerable road users...



Difficult to see, especially at junctions and roundabouts.



Moving quicker or slower than anticipated.

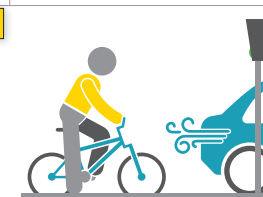


Less aware of the Highway Code.

### ...specific to two wheels:



Cyclists and motorcyclists are easily affected by side winds.



Cyclists cannot move off from junctions very quickly.



Motorcycles are difficult to see when they're overtaking you and filtering past in traffic.

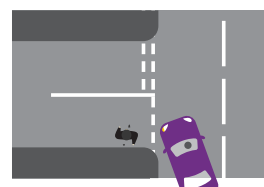
### ...specific to pedestrians:



Children can be unpredictable and difficult to see.



Children are easily distracted, they misjudge vehicle speeds and the intention of drivers.



The Highway Code prioritises pedestrians at junctions, it means drivers should give way when turning in or out of a road.



Nearly half of all pedestrians killed are aged over 60.



Older people may have difficulties in seeing or hearing approaching traffic.



Older people may also have decreased mobility.

### ...specific to horse riders:



Horses are easily frightened by the sights and sounds of busy traffic.



Riders sometimes ride in double file to protect novice riders or nervous horses.



Riders are often able to see and hear further ahead than drivers, so may signal to you.



We all have the right to travel safely on the road – whether that be on foot, by horse, on two wheels or by car. Now we know how to identify Vulnerable Road Users, it's important we understand how to minimise the risk when sharing the road, to increase our own safety, and that of others.

### The Advice.



**Drivers** must take extra care. Vulnerable road users always come off worse in a collision.

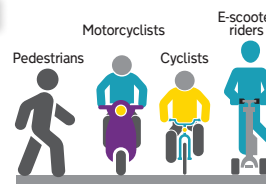
### Every time you get behind the wheel of a vehicle...



don't be distracted by in-car technology and mobile phones.



your speed **MUST** be safe for the road-type and road conditions.



be mindful that you share the road with different users.



accept that **ALL** road users make mistakes.

### Be alert!



Pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists may weave through queues of traffic.

### How you can help pedestrians



Drive with extra care in residential and retail areas.



Give pedestrians time and room to cross, especially the elderly or disabled.



Be ready for the unexpected, children in particular can be very unpredictable.

### How you can help horse riders



When overtaking a rider keep a space of at least 2 metres or hold back until you are able to.



Keep engine noise low and avoid using the horn. Give riders plenty of room.

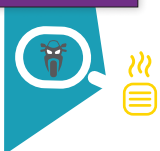


Be aware! Horse riders may not move to the centre of the road before turning right.

### How you can help those on two wheels



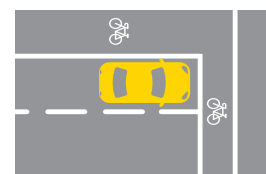
Give motorcyclists & cyclists time & plenty of room. Give cyclists at least 1.5 metres



Check your mirrors, especially nearside, when turning left and exiting roundabouts.



Always re-check for those on two wheels when pulling out of junctions.



Leave space at junctions by making sure you don't cross Advanced Stop Lines (ASL).

### On exiting a vehicle use



your opposite hand to open the door handle, it prompts you to check your mirrors and blind spot before opening.



At a junction assume those on two wheels are in your blind spot, more-so if you've recently passed one.