

# The Highway Code has changed – seven changes to be aware of in 2022

The 2022 updates affect driver priority, pedestrian and cyclist rights of way, and mobile phone use behind the wheel.

**Kent  
County  
Council**  
kent.gov.uk



## 1. The Hierarchy of road users

The hierarchy places those road users most at risk in the event of a collision at the top of the hierarchy. All road users must behave responsibly, be considerate to other road users and understand their responsibility for the safety of others

## 2. People walking have priority at junctions

If you're turning at a junction and there's a pedestrian, ready or preparing to cross, they have right of way.

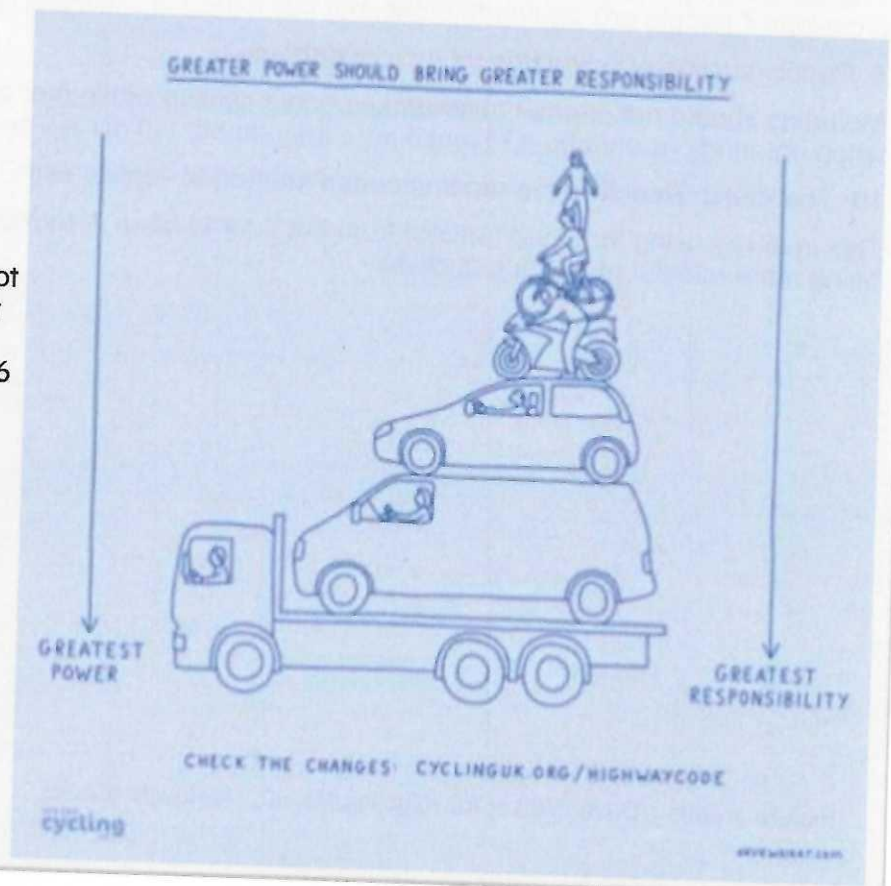
Penalty: If an incident occurs, the fault will automatically lie with those 'who can do the greatest harm' unless proven otherwise.

## 3. Cyclists should ride wherever they feel most visible

Cyclists should ride no less than half a metre from the kerb and should ride in the middle of the lane if there is insufficient space to pass safely. Cyclists can ride two abreast if riding in groups. Cyclists should however move to the left to allow motorists to overtake when it is safe to do so.

## 4. Overtaking cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders

- You may cross a double-white line to overtake someone cycling or riding a horse if they are travelling at 10 mph or less.
- When overtaking vulnerable road users, motorists must:
- give at least 1.5 metres when overtaking people cycling at speeds of up to 30mph, and more space at higher speeds
- give at least 2m space for people riding horses and when passing people walking in the road where there's no pavement.
- Wait behind them and do not overtake if it's unsafe or not possible to meet these clearances. Penalty: Up to 6 penalty points and a fine of £100



5. Drivers must wait for a safe gap in the flow of cyclists

Motorists are advised against turning in such a manner as to 'cut across' cyclists' right of way, and explicitly asked to consider cyclists like another motor vehicle.

6. All uses of hand-held mobiles are banned, except in an emergency

Drivers cannot use a handheld device for anything, including taking videos or photos, scrolling through playlists or playing games—EVEN if the vehicle isn't moving. While mobile phones can be used for navigation, they'll need to be securely fixed.

Penalty: £200 fine and six penalty points

7. Walking, cycling or riding in shared spaces

People cycling or riding a horse should respect the safety of people walking in these spaces, but people walking should also take care not to obstruct or endanger them. People cycling should slow down and give plenty of space when passing horses.

Find out about all the changes: [www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code/updates](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code/updates)

Optional

8. All traffic must stop for pedestrians waiting at crossings

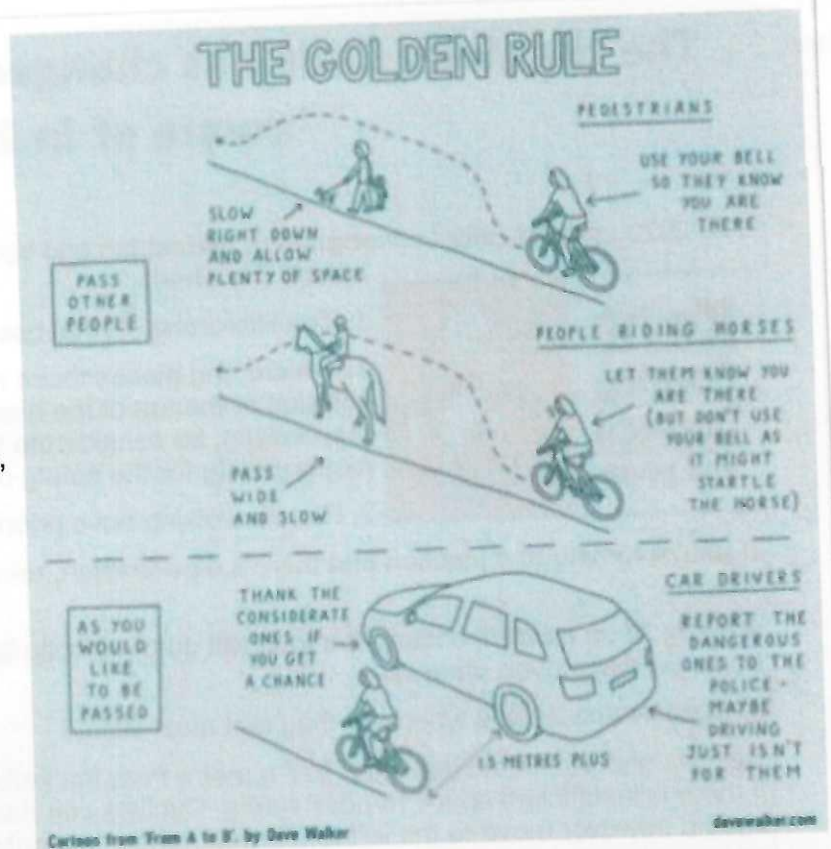
The Code has been updated so cyclists, horse-riders and motorists are legally required to stop at zebra crossings if people are waiting to cross, not just if they are already crossing.

9. People cycling or riding horses on roundabouts

Motorists should not attempt to overtake people cycling within that person's lane and take extra care when entering a roundabout to make sure they do not cut across people cycling or riding a horse.

10. The 'Dutch Reach' is the recommended method of vehicle exit

This involves using the hand furthest from the door to open it, to prompt looking over the shoulder and being more mindful of passing cyclists.



Picture credits—Dave Walker for "Cycling News". Used with thanks