

Pedestrian Crossings answers

Why would it not be necessary to teach slowing down arm signals at a light controlled pedestrian crossing?

The traffic behind can see your brake lights. Approaching drivers are controlled by lights and so the signal would not be helpful to them. The pedestrians are controlled by lights and so the signal would not offer any useful information to them.

How would you explain the fact that parking is not allowed on zig-zag lines?

Stress that this would be dangerous because parked vehicles would block other driver's view of the crossing making it hard for them to see pedestrians who are waiting or who have started to cross. This would be especially dangerous in children were crossing (because of their short stature).

What explanation would you offer to describe why drivers shouldn't beckon pedestrians to cross (or flash headlights for the same purpose)?

If you instruct pedestrians to cross they might cross without checking the road for themselves. This could prove fatal if another vehicle failed to stop at the crossing.

At SmartDriving we recommend that in addition to keeping pedestrian crossings clear in traffic queues you should also leave at least one car length clear beyond the crossing – why is this?

By leaving a gap beyond the crossing you improve the view of pedestrians who are waiting to cross or crossing - approaching drivers can also see the full width of the crossing sooner.

What is the priority difference between a split Pelican crossing with a central island and a split zebra crossing with a central island?

The Pelican is treated as one crossing - the zebra as two crossings. However, although drivers might be aware of this rule, not all pedestrians will... Treat all split crossings with caution.