

## Attitude

Your attitude as a driver has a significant impact on your safety and the safety of others. A calm, patient, and considerate attitude keeps everyone safe and makes journeys smoother. Safe driving is not just about skill; it's about how you think and behave on the road.

**Stay focused and avoid distractions.**

Set your sat nav before you drive or stop safely to adjust it. Any device that takes your eyes or mind off the road reduces your safety.

**Be careful at pedestrian crossings.**

- **Pelican crossings:** Have a flashing amber light. Give way if people are crossing.
- **Puffin crossings:** Sensors keep the red light on until pedestrians have finished.
- **Toucan crossings:** Pedestrians and cyclists can cross together.
- **Zebra crossings:** Slow down, be ready to stop, and never wave anyone across, another driver might not see them.

**Keep a safe distance.**

Use the two-second rule in good weather, four seconds in the wet. Tailgating reduces your view and leaves no time to stop. If someone follows too closely, don't react, slow gently and increase the space ahead.

**Share the road responsibly.**

Large vehicles need more room and time to turn or overtake. Use passing places correctly and avoid verges. Give way to emergency vehicles with blue lights, and to doctors with green beacons when safe.

**Defensive attitude is safe attitude.**

Stay patient, never block others, and refrain from using your headlights or making angry gestures. Avoid competing or retaliating; instead, anticipate hazards and stay calm.

**Adapt to road and weather conditions.**

Water or diesel on the road makes surfaces slippery, especially on bends or roundabouts. After a long period of dry weather, the first rain can make roads greasy, slow down and be cautious.

**Respect animals.**

If someone controlling animals signals you to stop, do so and switch off your engine. Pass horses slowly and leave plenty of room; noise and pressure can frighten them.

**Use lights correctly.**

At night, use dipped headlights when following another vehicle and full beam only when you won't dazzle anyone. In queues, use the parking brake instead of holding the footbrake to prevent glare for drivers behind.

**Consider all road users.**

Cyclists and motorcyclists need extra space. Cyclists are at risk near tram tracks, as their tyres can slip. On one-way streets, choose the correct lane as early as possible. If you're driving slowly and traffic builds behind, pull in safely to let others pass, but never wave them on.

**Look after your vehicle.**

Secure the **fuel cap** to prevent diesel spills, familiarise yourself with your **warning lights and controls**, and learn safe **refuelling procedures** before driving alone.

**In summary:**

A good driving attitude means **patience, tolerance, awareness, and responsibility**. Plan ahead, stay calm, and give others space. A positive attitude prevents conflict and protects lives, it's the heart of safe, professional driving.