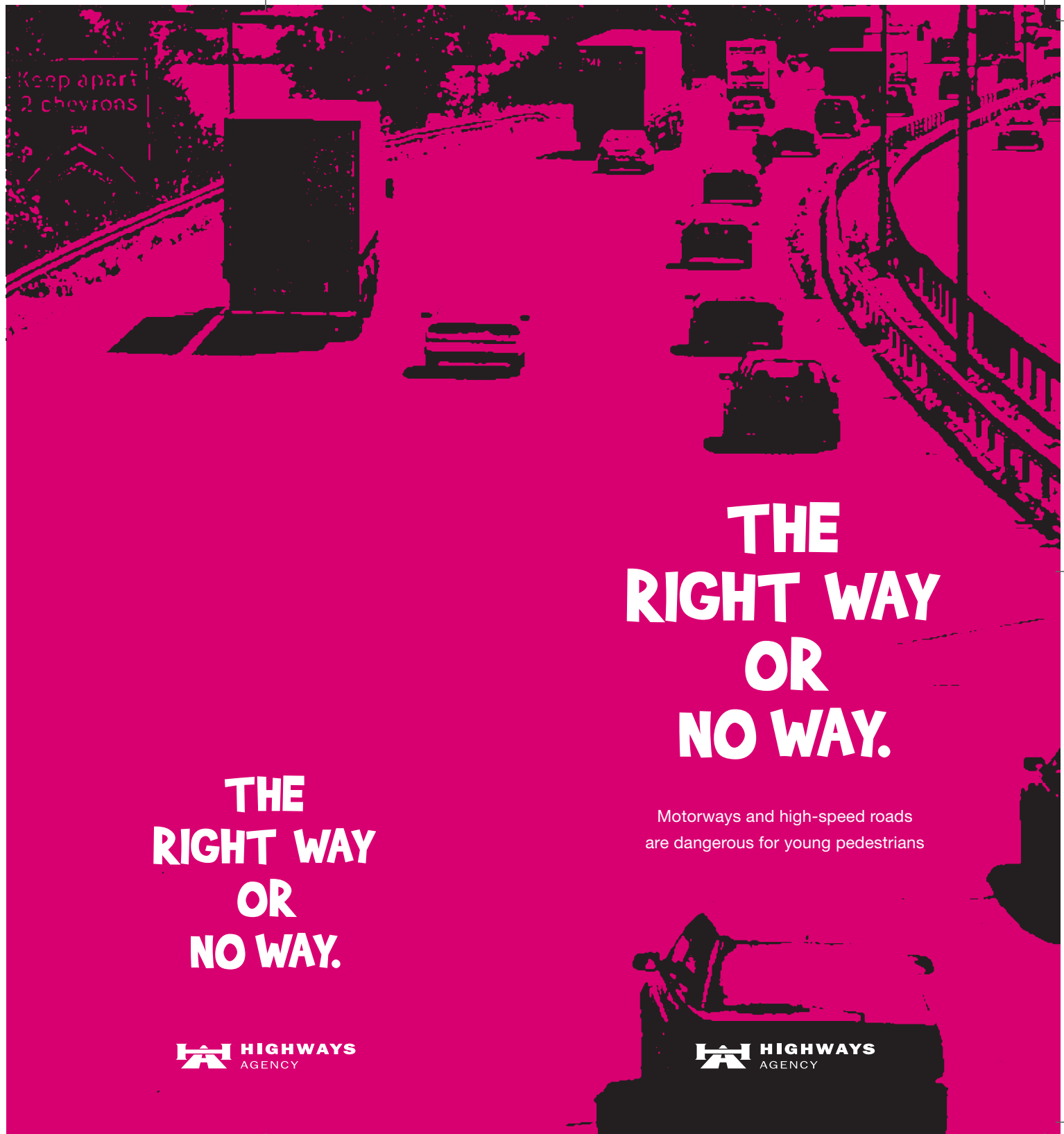


- You could discuss with your child what types of behaviour might not be appropriate on or around motorways/high-speed roads. For example;
 - ◆ Throwing things from overbridges which can have catastrophic consequences for vehicles on the road trying to avoid them.
 - ◆ Playing 'chicken' or dares. This can be illegal (if found to be on the motorway) and very dangerous. If your child feels under pressure from friends challenging them to do something they know they shouldn't, encourage them to stop – think it through – and walk away.
 - ◆ Cutting holes in fences or barriers. This can be seen as a challenge or a dare, and the resulting holes are then often used as shortcuts. As well as being highly dangerous – to young pedestrians and to others who may come across the gap – it is illegal and your child could be prosecuted.

Now is a good time to discuss journey planning with your child to review the best routes to school and other places they may now go alone.

Many local authorities have introduced safe links to school and where they exist your child should use them. These are usually off-road links that are available for both pedestrians and cyclists. Contact your local Council Road Safety Team for more information. Or www.highways.gov.uk/youngpedestrians for more about this issue.



**THE
RIGHT WAY
OR
NO WAY.**

**HA HIGHWAYS
AGENCY**

**THE
RIGHT WAY
OR
NO WAY.**

Motorways and high-speed roads
are dangerous for young pedestrians

**HA HIGHWAYS
AGENCY**

This newsletter has been designed to offer guidance and support to assist your child with the transition of moving from primary to secondary school.

It can often be during this time, and during the summer holidays that children start to walk more on their own; to a friend's house, to play outside of the immediate residential area or to walk to a new school.

Children, and parents, enjoy this new-found freedom. However, it is crucial at this time to discuss with your child potential risks they may encounter when they are out and about on their own or with friends.

When visiting new places your child may come into contact with busy, high-speed roads and in some instances the motorway. These could be areas that are unfamiliar to your child and pose a potential risk.

A large number of collisions involving children occur during the school holidays, at weekends, and in the afternoon and evenings on school days. Almost two-thirds of child accident victims are boys and most are between 10 and 14 years old.

In this newsletter, we will provide you with information you can share with your child to make sure they are ready for the new journeys that lie ahead.

ADVICE TO SHARE WITH YOUR CHILD

- Please ensure your child knows that it is illegal for pedestrians to be on the motorway. If found to be somewhere they shouldn't be, your child could be arrested, prosecuted and fined.
- Pedestrian crossings are provided on busy roads where people have difficulty crossing. The most common to be found on the motorway/high-speed roads are overbridges and underpasses.
- Please encourage your child to use these crossings where they exist. It is worth pointing out that the safest route to where your child is going may not always be the quickest. Adding a few minutes to a journey is a much safer option than trying to cross a very busy road.



- Slip road crossings are unique to motorways and dual carriageways. They provide vehicles with entry and exit points. Vehicles turning onto slip roads are often going at high speeds and your child may not be able to spot them easily because they could be coming from different directions.



Pedestrians on slip roads need to be alert and look in every direction before stepping out. When crossing they must carry on looking. Getting across two lanes of traffic (7 metres) will take longer for them than for an approaching vehicle. They must be alert during this time.

- Remind your child to be fully aware of their surroundings. Encourage them not to let music, friends or other distractions take their attention away from the sound of oncoming vehicles or sirens. They need to be especially attentive near crossings around the motorway and on high-speed roads where vehicles can be travelling up to 70mph.

