

Roundabouts

Purpose: Roundabouts are designed to keep the flow of traffic moving where a number of roads merge and cross.

Key points:

MSPSL on approach: Always look well ahead for warning signs, road signs and markings to help you plan your approach, ensuring you are giving a signal (where necessary), in the correct position and are at the appropriate speed in good time.

Priority: Normally priority is given to traffic approaching from the right, however, always check for signs and markings on the roundabout.

Procedure: Once you have entered the roundabout it is important to follow the correct procedure to negotiate it safely whilst giving due regard to other road users.

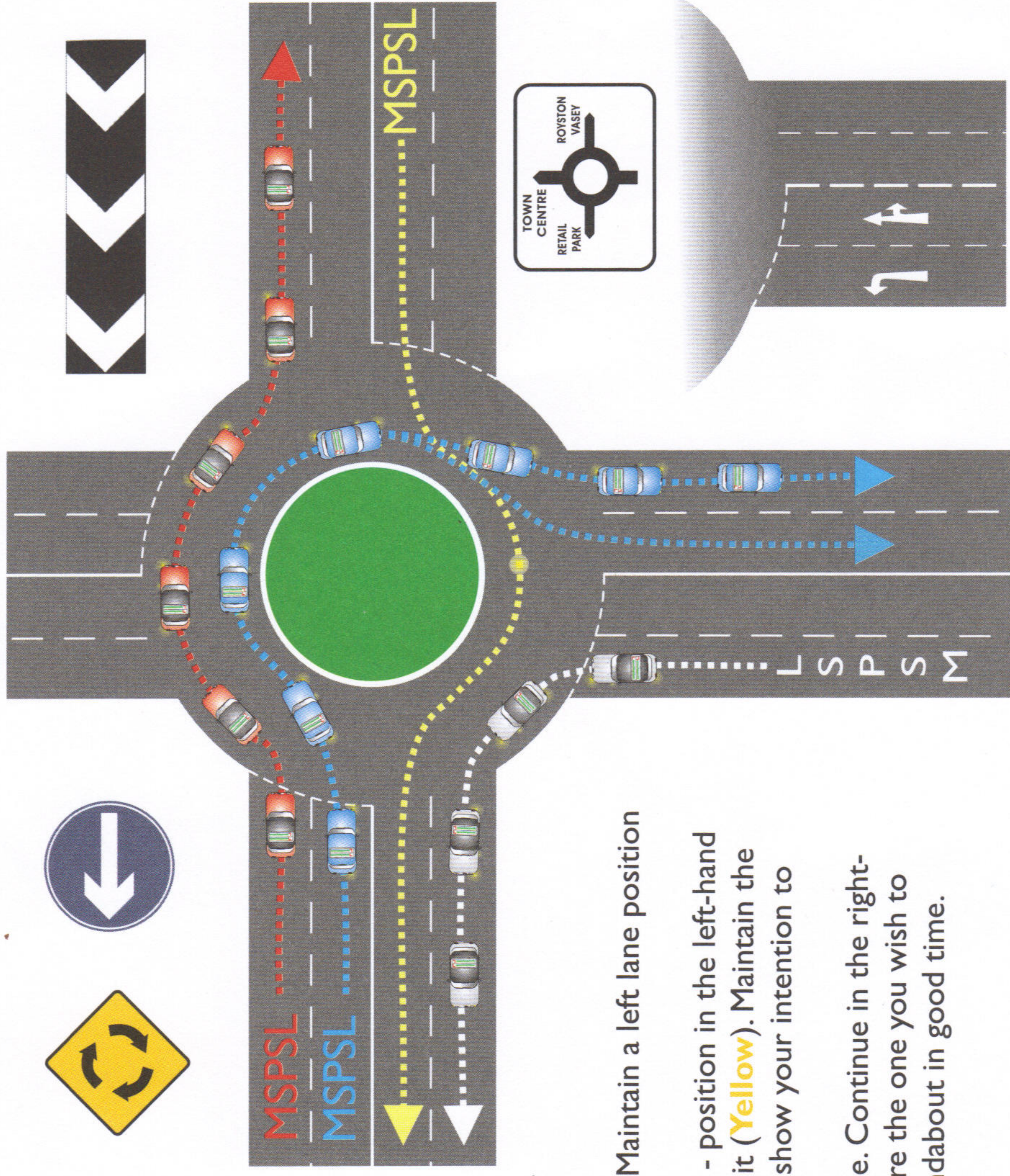
Dealing with Roundabouts:

Turning left (White): Check mirrors, signal left and approach in the left-hand lane. Maintain a left lane position on the roundabout keeping your signal on until you have taken your exit.

Following the road ahead (Red): Check mirrors - no signal required on approach - position in the left-hand lane unless blocked or signs or markings dictate otherwise, if so use the next lane to it (Yellow). Maintain the chosen lane position through the roundabout. Check mirrors and give a left signal to show your intention to exit the roundabout.

Turning right (Blue): Check mirrors, signal right and approach in the right-hand lane. Continue in the right-hand lane and maintain your signal. As you approach the centre point of the exit before the one you wish to take check your mirrors and give a left signal to show your intention to exit the roundabout in good time.

NB: The same procedure is adopted when turning full circle at a roundabout.



Tip: Unless signs or road markings dictate otherwise you should follow the procedure shown here. On some of the larger more complex roundabouts priority is sometimes given to traffic joining the roundabout or is controlled by traffic lights.

Quick Quiz

1. Which mirrors should you check before signalling to exit a roundabout?
2. If the left-hand lane was marked for left turn only which lane would you take to follow the road ahead?
3. What information do the signs on the illustration give?
4. True or false? You should always stop at a roundabout to check it is clear to proceed.

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