

Teacher Guidance Notes

Year 3

‘Whose Responsibility is Your Road Safety?’

Learning Outcomes

- Pupils will have learned the importance of the meanings of some common vocabulary when used in a road safety context – concentration; reaction; distraction; dangerous; communication; sensible behaviour
- Pupils will be aware of their own responsibility for their safety in the road environment
- Pupils will be aware of how dangerous it can be to distract the driver of a vehicle, either as a passenger or as a pedestrian

The purpose of this lesson is to develop pupils’ awareness of the complexity of the road environment, how unpredictable it can be and how everyone sharing the road space must concentrate on what they are doing, to keep themselves safe and not be a danger to others.

The whiteboard exercise

It is likely that children will list parents, teachers, police, school crossing patrols, et al as being responsible for their road safety.

The discussion is designed to raise their awareness of all the people that share the road environment, and how all these people are very busy ‘multi-tasking’

- (e.g. car-driver – doing things with hands (steering etc.), feet (working the pedals), listening, looking both inside (dashboard and mirrors) and outside the vehicle, paying attention to their passengers, reading all the road signs etc. and trying to work out what all the other road users are doing/going to do).
- (e.g. lorry-driver – similar but with a much bigger vehicle).
- (e.g. pedestrians – having to take great care crossing the road (Green Cross Code), understand how to judge speed and distance of vehicles, understand how to use zebra crossings, work pelican crossings etc.)

They ALL therefore need to concentrate all the time and be able to react quickly.

Reaction Test

This is designed to demonstrate that we all have different reaction times – discuss if these change when we are tired or unwell, and how this might affect our safety near the road.

Children can make their own ‘reaction tester’ and maybe take it home as a ‘conversation starter’ with parents. (Photocopy the sheet – it just needs cutting out, folding in half length- ways and glueing).

Our reaction times are also affected if we are distracted from concentrating.

Teacher Guidance Notes

Year 3

‘Whose Responsibility is Your Road Safety?’

Learning Outcomes

- Pupils will have learned the importance of the meanings of some common vocabulary when used in a road safety context – concentration; reaction; distraction; dangerous; communication; sensible behaviour
- Pupils will be aware of their own responsibility for their safety in the road environment
- Pupils will be aware of how dangerous it can be to distract the driver of a vehicle, either as a passenger or as a pedestrian

The purpose of this lesson is to develop pupils’ awareness of the complexity of the road environment, how unpredictable it can be and how everyone sharing the road space must concentrate on what they are doing, to keep themselves safe and not be a danger to others.

Reaction/Distraction Test

This is designed to demonstrate how much slower we may react if distracted.

Using the sheet as a design template, make a larger version, maybe on flip-chart paper, drawing around plates for the circles.

Make a second sheet with the numbers in a different order.

Have a blank sheet to cover the numbered sheets until you say ‘go’

Using sheet 1, ask one volunteer to tap on the jumbled numbers in order (1-12) when you say ‘go’ and ask another pupil to time them with a stopwatch. Don’t let the ‘tapper’ see the numbers until everyone is ready to start. Have 3 or 4 children surrounding the ‘tapper’ but standing still and quietly.

Repeat the exercise with sheet 2 – but this time have some distractions typical of car passengers – maybe play some music, have 2 children arguing loudly and another asking the ‘tapper’ questions whilst they are trying to tap out the numbers. In most cases you should find that it takes longer with distractions.

With an ‘accident’ only taking a second to happen, distracting the driver can be very dangerous.

Outside our School

Risk assess a good area outside the school, preferably with some sort of barrier, from which to watch passing traffic.

NB Pupils and adults should wear hi-vis jackets for this exercise.

Make sure the children understand how even just standing watching the traffic could be a distraction to drivers, so they must behave sensibly.

Identify things drivers are doing which means they are not concentrating on their driving (maybe on their mobile phone or eating).

Identify things pedestrians are doing which means they are not concentrating, or things that they are doing which might distract drivers.

Debrief

By the end of the day’s activities, hopefully when you ask the question ‘whose responsibility is your road safety?’, they will include themselves in the list!