



Year 2: *The School Journey*

The drama begins one morning in the kitchen of school crossing patrol and grandmother, Eileen Foster. She has received a letter inviting her to Buckingham Palace to collect an M.B.E from Her Majesty The Queen. The award is to be made in recognition of her services to road safety and the local community. Eileen will be accompanied to London by Tanya, her nine-year-old granddaughter, who lives with her.



Tanya is an extrovert and carefree child with a tendency to fantasise. She walks to school with Simon, a boy who lives in the next street and each day she demonstrates to her grandmother that she knows the safe route to school (which includes the school crossing, patrolled by her grandmother). Gran and Tanya agree to meet after school to go and buy a new dress for Tanya to wear at her grandmother's presentation.

When Tanya arrives at Simon's house, he is engrossed in a documentary about sharks. Simon is fascinated by the natural world - he keeps lizards and insects as pets much to Tanya's disgust. Simon tells Tanya that he has discovered an orphaned fox cub living in the Dingle (woodlands near his

house) and that he has been leaving food for it. Tanya is impressed and wants to go and feed the fox with Simon. However, she is nervous about taking a detour from her usual route to school especially since it would mean crossing a busy road on their own.



After school that day Tanya and Simon meet again and this time she is eager to find out more about the fox. Simon says he is going to see the fox in the Dingle on his way home and asks her to accompany him. Her curiosity gets the better of her and Tanya follows Simon in to the Dingle. Simon swears her to secrecy about the fox. When Tanya returns home late her grandmother is angry with her for forgetting about their shopping trip and for lying about where she has been.

The next time Tanya and Simon go to see the fox, Simon asks Tanya to return alone the following day to feed the fox as he has to go to a birthday party. She is reluctant to do this but the thought of the fox club starving is too much for her and so she agrees. The next day we watch her nervously leaving food for the fox and they running out of the Dingle. The drama finishes with Tanya being brought home by P.C. Fairchild who collects

her, uninjured, at the scene of a minor road accident.



Tanya is faced with a dilemma; break her promise to Simon and own up to where she has been or miss out on meeting the Queen.

The pupils are given an opportunity to question Tanya and Simon about their actions and to offer advice to the characters. Using hot seating and forum theatre the pupils will be able to discuss and demonstrate strategies for keeping safe, such as resisting peer pressure.



The School Journey finishes with the Queen (played by the class teacher) awarding Tanya's grandmother with her M.B.E and the whole class making presentations on pedestrian safety.



Evaluation Overview:

The School Journey evaluations indicated positive feedback.

The teacher evaluation form asked teachers to rate aspects of the programme on a scale of one to five, 1 being poor and 5 being excellent. Of the fifty-one responses 70% regarded the programmes information as excellent, 70% felt the programme examined and challenged attitudes about safety in risk as excellent and 90% felt the content was appropriate for their pupils and indicated they felt the quality of the performance was excellent.

Teacher responses also included:

'Hot seat, role play and discussion let the children see that it was their own decisions which will have consequences for them.'

The children were taught the rules of the green cross code and safe crossing places. This was repeated in a variety of ways so the message was well re-enforced.'

'The children were involved in role-play and appeared to think deeply about issues concerning personal safety. I observed some changes in attitudes as the session progressed.'

'A good balance of fun and learning.'

'A very compact programme covering all relevant points of safety. Excellent.'