



School Assembly Plans using Road Safety themes



Contents

Introduction	1
How to use the Pack	2
Background Information	4
<hr/>	
Assembly Plans for 4-7 years	6
<hr/>	
■ Holding Hands	7
■ Be Safe Be Seen	11
■ Traffic	15
■ Safe Places to Cross and Play	19
■ Getting Lost	24
■ Looking and Listening	28
<hr/>	
Assembly Plans for 7-11 years	32
<hr/>	
■ Going on a School Trip	33
■ Seeing and Being Seen	37
■ Belting Up	41
■ Safe Places to Cross	44
■ Cycle Helmets	47
■ Moving On	51
<hr/>	
Assembly Plans for 11-14 years	52
<hr/>	
■ Responsibilities as Road Users	53
■ Conspicuity	54
■ Pedestrian Safety	55
■ School Trips	56
■ Safe Cycling	58
■ In Car Safety	62
<hr/>	
Assembly Plans for 15+ years	65
<hr/>	
■ Learning to Drive	66
■ Being in Control	69
■ Newly Qualified Drivers	72
■ Mobile Phones	76
■ Travelling to Work (work experience and careers education)	78
<hr/>	
Further Information	81
<hr/>	

Foreword

We would like to express our gratitude to the following people and organisations for their help and advice in producing this resource.

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Barbara Baglee	Primary School Head of Religious Education

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Electronic Version

This resource can be downloaded from RoSPA's website: www.rospa.com

Photocopying Extracts

Extracts may be photocopied for use in assemblies or classroom activities.

Introduction

All children in school participate in some form of assembly which is one of the few times the whole school gets together. This time is used in many ways – for acts of worship, to give out notices, to meet visitors to the school, to react to incidents and as a learning experience.

The use of assemblies with a road safety theme can help to reinforce learning, help the children reflect and discuss incidents/accidents, meet people who can help them and explore the moral implications of their actions in various situations. The opportunity for reflection at the end of each assembly should highlight moral issues.

Road safety education is vital to enable children to be able to keep themselves as safe as possible on our roads. The most effective way of learning about road safety has been found to be experiential, out on the road, in real situations – for example, practical child pedestrian training. Children need to be involved in their own learning process and be given opportunities to discover solutions and strategies for themselves rather than be told what to do or learn processes by rote.

These assemblies are best used to support and reinforce other road safety education and training activities.

- Road accidents account for 25% of all deaths of school children.
- Road accidents are the biggest single cause of death for all children between the ages of 1 and 15 years.
- Road safety education can help save children's lives by enabling them to develop the skills and concepts needed to keep themselves safe.

How to use the pack

The pack is designed to be used by head teachers and teachers, either with the whole school or with individual classes.

These assemblies are not intended to be the sum total of road safety education within the school. They should be closely linked to curriculum planning to enable the children to experience practical road safety training with classroom reinforcement. However, particular incidents may trigger the need to use an assembly to remind the children of the importance of taking care on the road, and to reflect on their own practice.

The assemblies cover all age groups and developmental stages. All have clearly defined aims, outline any resources or preparation needed, give teacher's notes, a description of the content and a reflection.

The assembly for 4-7 and 7-11 year olds are generally linked to seasonal changes and events, for example, winter clothing, conspicuity, cycle safety, etc. The younger age range includes stories and songs to accompany each assembly and the older age group has songs to accompany all but the last assembly.

The 11-14 year olds' assemblies look at the children's growing responsibility for their own safety as they move through Secondary School.

The 15+ year olds' assemblies follow the young person through learning to drive and the growing responsibilities involved.

The Assembly Plans

4-7 years

Topic	Suggested Term	Suggested Period
Holding hands	Term 1	Sept
Be safe be seen	Term 1	Oct/Nov
Traffic	Term 1	Dec
Safe places to cross and play	Term 2	Feb
Getting lost	Term 2	March
Looking and listening	Term 3	May

7-11 years

Topic	Suggested Term	Suggested Period
Going on a school trip	Term 1	Sept
Seeing and being seen	Term 1	Oct/Nov
Belting up	Term 1	Dec
Safe places to cross	Term 2	March
Cycle helmets	Term 2	Feb
Moving on	Term 3	June

How to use the pack

11-14 years

Topic	Suggested Term	Suggested Period
Responsibilities as road users	Term 1	Sept
Conspicuity/Winter safety	Term 1	Oct/Nov
Pedestrian safety	Term 1	Dec
School trips	Term 2	Feb
Safe cycling	Term 2	March
In car safety	Term 3	June

15+ years

Topic	Suggested Term	Suggested Period
Learning to drive	Term 1	Sept onwards
Being in control	Term 1	Dec
New drivers	Term 2	March
Mobile phones	Term 2	April
Travelling to work (work experience and careers education)	Term 3	May

Background facts and figures about road accidents are provided for information, and other resources and sources of help and information are contained at the end of the pack.

The assemblies, particularly the primary age range, are best used as a series to support and reinforce road safety activities in the curriculum, although each assembly stands alone and can be used to fulfil a particular need.

Background Information

In 2000, 191 children were killed on the road, 5,011 were seriously injured and 34,513 were slightly injured.

Child Road Casualties 2000 (0-15 years, Great Britain)

	Killed	Injured	Total
Pedestrian	107	16,077	16,184
Pedal cyclist	27	6,233	6,260
Car user	48	14,761	14,809
Other	9	2,453	2,462
Total	191	39,524	39,715

Road accidents account for 25% of all deaths of school children. In fact, road accidents are the biggest single cause of death for all children aged between 1 and 15 years.

The Government has set a target of reducing child road deaths and serious injuries by 50% by 2010.

What Causes Accidents?

Most road accidents have several causes. The three main factors are:

- Human
- Environmental
- Mechanical

Human Behaviour is a factor in 95% of all accidents. It takes the form of mistakes, errors of judgement, lapses of attention or deliberately dangerous actions.

Environmental Problems are involved in less than 9% of road accidents. Such problems include the design, construction and maintenance of roads, as well as weather conditions, such as fog, rain, ice and so on.

Mechanical Defects occur in about 8.5% of road accidents. They include all types of mechanical failure from a tyre defect to complete failure of the braking system.

Background Information

Did You Know?

- Most road accidents happen in built up areas.
- Most road accidents happen in daylight.
- The most dangerous hours on the roads are 3.00pm to 6.00pm and 7.00am to 9.00am.
- Road accidents cost almost £17 billion a year (£32,000 per minute).
- Child pedestrian casualties peak at about 12 years of age.
- Child cyclist casualties peak at about 14 years of age.
- Boys are hurt in road accidents much more frequently than girls.
- Almost 20% of child pedestrian casualties occur on the way to or from school.
- Children from lower socio-economic groups are more likely to be hurt in road accidents.
- Children from ethnic minority backgrounds are over represented in road accidents.