

Lesson 3: PSHE/Citizenship

Stepping up for safe streets

Lesson overview

The class will explore how young people can make their voices heard and make a difference – both on the world stage and in their communities.

Aim

To learn about young people who have successfully campaigned for change

Objectives

To discuss changes that may be needed to enable people to make safe and healthy journeys and explore how everyone can become an advocate for road safety and **Step Up for Safe Streets**

Programmes of study

PSHE

- To find out what being part of a community means, and about the varied institutions that support communities locally and nationally
- To recognise the role of voluntary, community and pressure groups, especially in relation to health and wellbeing
- To explore how people can take action to raise awareness in their communities

Citizenship

- Research, discuss and debate topical issues, problems and events
- To consider social and moral dilemmas that pupils may come across in life
- To underline the importance of seeing an issue from different viewpoints

Preparation

Print out the 'Young people making a difference' profiles from pages 20–22 with enough copies for each pupil/group of pupils to have one profile each. Teachers can decide how much information to share, depending on pupils' age and abilities.

Lesson outline

1. Introduce the idea of campaigning, explaining that a campaign is a set of activities to achieve a change. Ask pupils whether they know about any local or national campaigns – examples they may have heard of in the news include the Extinction Rebellion movement against climate change or campaigns for and against Britain leaving the European Union (Brexit).

2. Distribute copies of 'Young people making a difference' profiles from pages 20–22.

Ask pupils to work in groups to read about one of the campaigners and work out what they campaigned for, what they achieved and what methods they used to get their message across, e.g. public appearances, press releases, songs, social media, posters, radio and TV interviews.



3. Focus on the young people who have campaigned for road safety issues. Ask pupils why they think campaigning for road safety is important. Explain that 1.3 million people die on the world's road every year and injuries from road crashes are the biggest killer of young people. Tell them that no one should be hurt on roads and everyone has the right to make safe and healthy journeys, wherever they go.

You could also talk about successful road safety campaigns using information provided on page 23.

4. Explain to pupils that for children to make safe and healthy journeys where they live, they need five things: footpaths, cycle paths, safe places to cross, slow traffic and clean traffic. Talk about whether roads near your school / in your community have these things and whether pupils can make safe and healthy journeys.

5. Ask pupils for ideas about how grown ups can help keep them safe near roads, and how they can tell grown ups about this. Ask the class to think about the most important issues near your school and use these as the basis for their action. Possible examples could include:

- Writing a letter to their parent/carer asking them to never use their phone when driving
- Creating an infographic to share on social media
- Drawing a picture showing the five things children need to keep them safe near roads
- Designing a road safety poster to be displayed in the school entrance
- Writing to a local MP asking for 20mph speed limits or cycle paths

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Extension activity/homework

Ask pupils to design infographics to share on social media or a road safety poster calling on other people to Step Up for Safe Streets. Use the infographics and posters included in the Road Safety Week action pack for inspiration, or use the templates on pages 18 and 19. Share pupils' designs on social media - please tag @brakecharity and use the hashtags #RoadSafetyWeek #StepUp.



Even very young children can Step Up for Safe Streets and be leaders for road safety by asking grown ups to keep them safe near roads.

Ask pupils to colour in the postcards in the Road Safety Week action pack and take them home. They can talk to their parents/carers about the message on the postcard, and ask them to display their artwork proudly - to show they understand the importance of keeping children safe near roads.



Lesson 3: PSHE/Citizenship**Stepping up for safe streets****Young people making a difference**

There has never been a better time for young people to get their voices heard. Around the world young campaigners are making headlines as their calls for change make politicians at the highest levels sit up and take notice. Here are some examples of young people making a difference in their communities and globally that may inspire you to kick-start your own campaigns.

**Malala Yousafzai****Campaign: Education rights for girls**

Malala Yousafzai is one of the most famous young campaigners in the world. Since being shot by a Taliban gunman in 2012 after she spoke out against the group, Malala has continued to campaign for girls' rights to education, and regularly meets with refugees and young female students around the world.

On her 16th birthday, Malala addressed the United Nations in New York and soon after published her first book about her experiences. She was later awarded the European Parliament's Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, and in October 2014 she became the youngest person to receive the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize.

**Greta Thunberg****Campaign: Action on climate change**

On 20 August 2018, Greta Thunberg began a solo protest that would go on to spark a worldwide movement. Greta stopped attending school, demanding that Sweden's government take action to reduce the country's carbon emissions. She sat outside Sweden's parliament building for weeks with the sign 'school strike for the climate', and quickly began to gather international attention.

Within months, thousands of students were taking part in similar strikes across the world, all calling on their nations' leaders to do something about the growing climate emergency.

Now aged 16, Greta has met with protestors and governments globally and regularly addresses international forums about the need for action on climate change.

**Maisie Godden-Hall****Campaign: Helmet laws for child cyclists**

When Maisie Godden-Hall was 11, she was hit by a car while cycling to school and was knocked to the floor. The driver didn't see Maisie and ran over her, trapping her underneath the vehicle.

Maisie survived this crash thanks to the helmet that she was wearing. The helmet cracked when she hit the road and melted while resting on the exhaust under the car. However, it didn't break and her head stayed protected.

This experience prompted Maisie to raise awareness with other children about how important it is to wear a helmet. She started a petition asking the Government to introduce a law requiring children to wear a helmet while cycling, and has regularly raised funds for charity.



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Young people making a difference (contd.)



Charlotte Smith

Campaign: Electric cars

Charlotte Smith decided to do something about local air quality in Solihull when she noticed that she kept getting a bad cough. She and her dad researched the possible causes of this and found that emissions from cars can cause serious lung conditions.

Charlotte wanted to encourage more people to drive electric cars but didn't want to punish people for driving fossil-fuelled vehicles. Instead, she decided to make thank you notes for electric car drivers and left them on their windscreens.

She has given out thousands of cards and has travelled as far as the USA as part of her thank you mission. She has also received a thank you letter herself from the Queen.



Djujan Hoosan

Campaign: Higher age of criminal responsibility

Twelve-year-old Djujan Hoosan recently became the youngest person ever to address the United Nations' Human Rights Council when he asked for Australia's age of criminal responsibility to be raised from 10 to stop children from being imprisoned.

Two years earlier, aged 10, Djujan was nearly jailed after he began struggling with school and got into trouble with local police. Thankfully his family managed to intervene, and his experiences have been made into a documentary that will be shown to the United Nations. Now, he is campaigning to help prevent the same thing from happening to other children in the future.



Photo credit: Maya Newell

Vision Zero Youth Council

Campaign: Street cameras near schools

In July 2018, a law in New York that allowed speed cameras to be placed around schools was due to expire. Unless it was renewed, 120 cameras would have been permanently turned off – significantly reducing speed enforcement around schools.

The Vision Zero Youth Council sought to change this by organising a rally where schoolchildren protested for the speed camera law to be extended. They spoke to reporters and the crowds about their own experiences with road safety and were joined by the Mayor and hundreds of groups representing schools and hospitals.

They helped secure support from the New York Governor and ensured the return of the speed cameras programme.



Photo credit: The Vision Zero Youth Council

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Young people making a difference (contd.)



Amika George

Campaign: Free periods

Two years ago, Cambridge student Amika George was shocked to hear stories of girls around the UK who were missing school because they couldn't afford menstrual products.

Amika started an online movement and organised a protest outside Downing Street to shout out for an end to period poverty. This protest was attended by more than 2,000 people, and her campaigning led to the government announcing that it would donate £1.5 million to charities that give menstrual products to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Amika believes further action is still needed, as England has not kept up with other parts of the UK in ensuring free access to menstrual products.



Melati and Isabel Wijsen

Campaign: Reduce plastic bag usage

Melati and Isabel Wijsen started the Bali-based organisation 'Bye Bye Plastic Bags' in 2013 after a school lesson about influential people from history. The sisters decided they could make a difference by convincing people to change their shopping habits, and by cleaning up beaches themselves.

In 2014, they planned to get the attention of the government by going on a hunger strike – but just two days later the governor of Bali invited them to a meeting. This led to an agreement to work together to reduce plastic bag use throughout the island and reduce pollution.

Melati and Isabel have won multiple awards and Bye Bye Plastic Bags has now become an international movement with branches around the world.



Photo credit: www.facebook.com/byebyeplasticbags/

Youth for Brake

Campaign: Safe and healthy mobility for all

Youth for Brake is a project for schools that aims to inspire young people to start their own campaigns for safe and healthy mobility.

The first group to get involved with Youth for Brake was a Year 9 class at Murray Park school in Derby. The students – Arjun Binning, Archie Couchman, Tom Mills and George Ogan – want to raise awareness about the importance of road safety in Derby and try to make roads outside their school safer.

They organised and ran an assembly to teach children from a local primary school about road safety. They also contacted their local MP and spoke on the radio to highlight the issue, leading to them receiving a letter of commendation from the House of Commons.



Lesson 3: PSHE/Citizenship**Stepping up for safe streets****Successful road safety campaigns**

Most major road safety changes in the last few decades didn't come about overnight — achieving them took campaigners years of effort. Here are two examples of campaigns that achieved great success through hard work and dedication.

**Drink-driving**

In the mid-1960s the number of cars on British roads was on the rise, and thousands of deaths were linked to drink-driving.

At the time, being drunk in charge of a vehicle was technically illegal but there was no legal definition of what counted as an unsafe level of intoxication.

After legal amendments that, among other things, made it a crime to attempt to drive under the influence of drink or drugs, a campaign was launched in 1954 that aimed to encourage drivers to think about how much they drank before getting behind the wheel. Eleven years later, Transport Minister Barbara Castle announced new plans to combat drink-driving through a new road safety law.

The Road Safety Act 1967 set a blood alcohol limit of 80mg per 100ml, and introduced the breathalyser test to help enforce it. Since then, the number of deaths from drink-driving has dropped significantly, from around 2,000 per year to a few hundred.

Public opinion against drink-driving is also growing stronger. Research released by Public Health England in 2016 found 77% of people support reducing the blood alcohol limit in England and Wales to 50mg per 100ml – the same as it is in Scotland and most European countries. Another 82% said they don't think any drinking is acceptable before getting behind the wheel.

**Seat belts**

Seat belts are now seen as essential safety features, but that wasn't always the case. It took years of effort by campaign groups and Members of Parliament to make wearing them mandatory.

Since 1968, car-makers have had to put seat belts in their cars but it wasn't until 1983 that drivers had to wear them by law. Following the first attempt by MPs to make seat belt-wearing compulsory in 1973, 11 more attempts were made before the law was successfully changed.

Many people complained about having to wear a seat belt. Some thought they should be free to choose whether they wore a seat belt or not. Others said they found seat belts uncomfortable, or said that seat belts might encourage people to drive more aggressively because they felt safer.

Soon after the law was passed, around 90% of people began regularly wearing seat belts. In 1989, the law changed to require children in the back seats of cars to wear them as well. Two years later, this was extended to adult passengers. Today, rates of seat belt-wearing are even higher, with 98% of people recorded as using them in 2014.

