



Assembly: Respecting environment and property

Year group:	Y7 – Y13
Key subject:	Citizenship
Cross curricular:	N/A
QCA scheme of work:	Developing skills of participation and responsible action. Knowledge and understanding about becoming informed citizens.
Useful resources:	A whiteboard. For extension: Trackoff DVD: Module: Vandalism: Criminal record.

The assembly plan

Aims

This Y7 – Y13 assembly responds to an act of vandalism that may have taken place at the local railway station, a train or other railway property.

Introduction

Introduce the incident. You may be able to use newspaper cuttings, news websites or the British Transport Police Media Centre:

<http://www.btp.presscentre.com/>

You may also be able to invite a local British Transport Police officer to give a talk to the school. Details can be found at <http://www.trackoff.org/SchoolVisits.aspx>

Main presentation

After explaining the incident, ask the students to consider how four different people or organisations might be feeling about the incident. Write out the thoughts in speech bubbles on the whiteboard. Discuss in class each of the possible thoughts.

1) The perpetrator

**I did it. I wonder if anybody knows?
What if I'm caught on CCTV?**

If the perpetrator is caught, he or she will face criminal charges, may have to pay a fine or even go to prison.

2) Witness A

**I know who did it. Should I tell?
What if I do tell and they find out it was me?**

By not giving the information of who was involved, you could be partially responsible if that person went on to do the same thing again and again. Indeed, how would they feel if they knew someone had burgled their home? Wouldn't they want to make sure that person faced the consequences of what they did?

3) Witness B

It's only the railway – I don't care!

Consider how much more pleasant and safer the local station / trains would be if people respected the property and the environment.

Explain that the rail industry spends millions of pounds each year in repairing vandalised property to ensure the railway is safe and operational. That money could be much better spent improving the services and the infrastructure.

4) A user of the local railway services.

I can't believe it – mindless vandalism again! Why are people so inconsiderate?!

Summary

Recount the local incident, and recap:

Some people may feel that the railway doesn't really belong to anyone so it's okay to vandalise it. But this is not true:

First, the railway property belongs to the many companies who provide Britain with a railway. And second, the railway is an essential service for our community. Respecting the private property and railway environment will make our travel much more pleasant and safe.

Additional notes

This assembly is suitable for any secondary school. Teacher adjustments can be made to adapt it for a single class.

Extension/shortening tip

- Invite a British Transport Police officer to give a talk at the assembly. Contact details are provided at:

<http://www.trackoff.org/SchoolVisits.aspx>

- Use the Module: Vandalism: Criminal record on the Trackoff DVD to discuss how a criminal record could limit one's choices in life.