



Assembly: Dangers on the railway

Year group:	Y3 – Y6
Key subject:	PSHE
Cross curricular:	Citizenship
QCA scheme of work:	N/A
Useful resources:	Trackoff website: http://www.trackoff.org/Dangers.aspx Photos of your local station.

The assembly plan

Aims

This Y3 – Y6 assembly looks at travelling safely to and from school.

The assembly aims to:

- Encourage pupils to think about their own and their friends' safety when travelling on the railway.
- Help pupils to recognise and understand the dangers of the railway.

This assembly will be suitable for any primary school, but you may want to make use of it specifically if:

- Large numbers of pupils in your school will start commuting to school by train when they move on to the secondary school.
- You are planning a school trip that involves travelling by train.
- Your class or school has been invited for a train ride by your local train operating company, or you are planning to organise such an outing.

Introduction

Tell the children that today's assembly is about travelling by train, and explain why we are discussing this, e.g. because of a school trip that involves train travel, or because many of the pupils in the class are travelling to school by train.

Main presentation

Start by asking the class who has travelled by train before.

Allow children time to explain what their journey was about, e.g.

- I went to visit my grandparents.
- I went on a school trip.

Tell the children that travelling on the railway is safe, but there are also dangers if we do things we shouldn't do.

Ask the children:

If you were playing ball and your ball went onto the road, would it be safe to go and retrieve it?

You could discuss different safe ways of doing so, e.g. ask an adult or older sibling; make sure that there are no cars or bikes coming.

Then ask the children: what if your toy or something else fell on to the railway track – would it ever be safe to go and retrieve it?

Tell the children that it is never safe. First, what is the difference between cars and trains? You can show video from <http://www.trackoff.org/Dangers.aspx> to elicit responses. The video is filmed from the driver's point of view.

- Trains are much faster cars.
- Trains can't stop quickly.

What can a car driver do that a train driver can't?

- Swerve.

What other dangers are present on the railway track?

- There could be an electrified rail on the ground.

Conclude that it is never safe to go on the railway track.

Next, show the children a picture of your local railway station. Ask them to consider how to keep safe on the platform.

What kind of behaviours do the children think might be dangerous on the platform? E.g:

- Going too close to the platform edge.
- Playing ball.
- Running around.
- Skateboarding, cycling or rollerskating.

Conclude that the station platforms are designed for safely getting on and off the train and they are not places for playing.

Summary

Ask children to summarise the key dangers on the railway: trains that can't swerve or stop quickly, and electricity.

Extension/shortening tip

You can invite a British Transport Police officer to give a talk at the assembly. Contact details are provided at:

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