

PSHCE: Unit 02 Crime (or equivalent)

ABOUT THIS UNIT

This unit explores crime and how it affects young people, victims of crime and their communities. It also examines the nature of youth offending, and the special measures taken when dealing with young people.

The unit builds on the understanding pupils developed in Primary that certain activities are against the criminal law. It examines in more detail how the criminal justice system deals with youth offending. Pupils will gain a much deeper understanding of how crime affects victims.

The theme will be specifically about crime on the railways.

This unit links with unit 15 'Crime and safety awareness - a whole-school multi-agency approach'.

Lesson notes

Use the white board to project a selection of press cuttings, images and video clips from the image and video banks and discuss what the children see.

Identify offences - why do they think these acts occurred?

Discuss why they think young people trespass on the railway - do they think it is a crime?
(please note trespass on the railway is a criminal offence)

What do they think will happen to these people trespassing on railways if they are caught?
What could be the consequences if they didn't?

Show the image of the white body box, the video clip of the trespassers walking over the track and seconds later a train comes.

If accidents do occur how would it affect the victim's parents

How would it affect a school community if a young person is killed?

Look at some images of vandalism to a train from the image bank.

Do they think innocent people could have been injured or the driver?

How would the driver feel?

Read the article 'Horrific Accident' from Track Talk (based on real events)

Look at the consequences of what happened to John Smith, Rod Jones and Matt Brown.

How would the train driver be affected?

Do they think the boys deserved to go to a young offender's prison?

Allow the children to get into groups and write down their views on railway crime and think of ways fatal accidents could be prevented.

Allow time for children to discuss their view from each group.

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Resources

Photographs of vandalism, trespassers, inappropriate behaviour on the railways from image bank.

Clips of young people on the railway track from the video bank.

The article 'Horrific Accident'.

Expectations

At the end of this unit

Most pupils: identify activities that are criminal (trespass on the railway is a criminal offence) and describe how the law treats people accused of a crime. They identify some reasons why the peak age for offending generally is 18. They discuss issues of fairness to the victim and offender and recognise the importance of a right to a fair trial for everyone.

www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/schemes2/citizenship/cit02/

TRACK TALK

RAILWAY SAFETY RAILWAY SAFETY RAILWAY SAFETY



POLICE REPORT

Two of the policemen involved with the accident, PC Lenny Bird and PC Steve Waring, were responsible for breaking the news of the 12 year-old's death to his parents.

PC Bird, a railway policeman for over 20 years, said: "No matter how long you are in the job, you never get used to telling parents that their child has been involved in an accident.

The shock, tears and panic that comes with the news that their son or daughter has been fatally injured in this kind of tragedy lives with you for the rest of your life. It can ruin a family - even years after the accident parents still never get over the shock of losing a loved one. One of the worst aspects of the job is having to return the person's personal belongings, things like cinema tickets, sweets, pocket money...even photos of their little sister".

PC Waring commented: "This case highlights the stupidity of playing near the railway system. Children have got to understand that the railway is dangerous. It may seem an exciting place but it is not a playground. People are killed every year, bringing grief to their family and friends. Just please stay away from railway land!"

EVIDENCE FOUND AT TRACKSIDE

During the investigation police at the scene found footprints and a shoe worn by the victim. 30 metres from the accident the remains of the concrete block were found, which had broken into several pieces as it smashed into the train driver's windscreen. Glass which had cut the driver's face and hands was found on the line along with the victim's watch. Two of the eyewitnesses, who were close by when the 12 year-old fell, were being treated in a local hospital for shock.

EMERGENCY SERVICES PRAISED FOR PROMPT ACTION

Horrific Accident

BULLIES BLAMED FOR RAILWAY DEATH

Today in court a jury heard how an act of vandalism carried out under pressure from a bully went terribly wrong and led to the death of a young boy.

Last month John Smith, a lively 12 year-old, was killed when he fell from a railway bridge and landed in front of an oncoming freight train. The court was told how John had been forced to help Matt Brown (15), from Denby Drive, to throw a concrete block onto a train travelling on the Main Line. Tragically John had slipped off the bridge, while still holding the block, just as the train was passing.

GOING HOME

Rod Jones (14), a friend of Matt's who had been with him at the time of the accident, stood up in front of the court and relived the terrible events that lead up to John's death. He said that Matt and he were on their way home from school at about 3.45pm. Before they got to the railway bridge Paul had suggested finding something to throw at the passing trains for a bit of fun. When they got to the bridge they saw John who they had never met before but was wearing a school uniform from another school. They went up to John and pushed him around and bullied him



until he was made to help them collect the concrete block from a nearby building site. Paul said, "John did not want to help but Matt had hit and kicked him. When the train came John just seemed to fall. I don't know how it happened."

The train was so severely damaged in the accident that it took several hours to clear the track leaving commuters stranded and many services had to be cancelled.

Mrs Smith, John's mother, left the court in tears with her husband and close relatives. An Uncle

from the family said, "This has been a most terrible time for us all, if there was any way we could get John back we would do it".

Matt Brown has been sent to a secure unit for twelve months while Paul Jones is on six months probation. In summing up the judge said, "Both boys will have to live with what they have done to an innocent young life. It is only by luck that the train was not carrying passengers. Who knows what might have happened if that had been the case."

TRAIN DRIVER "MAY NEVER WORK AGAIN"

The driver of the train involved in the horrific accident was named in court as Peter Jones (age 46) a married man with two teenage children.

As a result of his experience Mr Jones is still undergoing specialist treatment and was unable to appear in court. Counsel for the prosecution, Mr Michael White QC, said: "Railway vandals do not appreciate all the consequences of their actions. Apart from the

tragedy for the victim's parents and family, Mr Jones is in such a state of shock he may never work again."



Get a life - don't lose it!