

Walk Safe: Child Pedestrian Training in Schools

Walk Safe is road safety education for children working in partnership with schools, parents and carers and aims to encourage more children to walk, more often and more safely, and to reduce the number and severity of child pedestrian accidents in the county of Wiltshire by:



- developing the skills children need to deal with traffic as a pedestrian
- helping children to develop the strategies necessary and assess the risks when dealing with traffic as a pedestrian
- developing appropriate pedestrian behaviour and reinforcing good practice
- increasing the awareness amongst teachers, parents and carers of the difficulties children face when dealing with traffic and how they can help
- encouraging children and parents to leave the car at home and walk to school, encouraging a healthier more active lifestyle

Walk Safe has been running in schools since 2004, thousands of children benefit from this each year.

Walk Safe is delivered, through schools, by specialists in child pedestrian safety from the Road Safety Team. The training is free of charge and is available to all infant, junior, primary and special schools in Wiltshire. Please contact the Road Safety Team at the address below for further information.

Walk Safe for Key Stage 1:

Consists of a practical training session with small groups of children in the school hall, or other suitable area, using miniature pelican/puffin crossings together with discussions about:



- Different types of traffic on the roads
- Where and how to walk (on the footway and holding hands with an adult)
- Stop, look and listen
- Safer places to cross the road
- Crossing safely
- Be bright be seen
- Safer places to play
- Car seats and seat belts

Walk Safe for Key Stage 2:

Consists of a classroom theory and discussion session, plus a practical walking session.

The classroom session includes a DVD, specially commissioned by Wiltshire Council Road Safety, showing how to use the 'green cross code' and how to find a safer place to cross the road.

The practical session consists of a walk, near the school, with small groups of children helping them put the theory into practice. We usually ask for some help with this from the school, which may involve parents as

volunteer helpers. This helps to reinforce the road safety message with adults, thus helping to get the message across to children.

The learning points from the sessions are:

- Assessing risks and taking personal responsibility
- Judging speed and distances
- Recognising safer places to cross
- Using the green cross code
- Crossing safely between parked cars



Walk Safe for Year 6: R U Street Wise?

This session for Year 6 children is about making a journey and it is designed to help children with their move to secondary school. It considers the different options for making the journey; whether it is as a pedestrian, cyclist, car passenger on public transport or a school bus. Planning and thinking about travelling to their new school in September safely.

How do you apply for Walk Safe?

Using the schools' digital platform **Right Choice** <http://rightchoice.wiltshire.gov.uk/Services/4133> your school can register to participate by sending a direct message to the Road Safety Team. Once your school has registered a member of the Road Safety Team will contact the school to arrange delivery.

This is currently a free service.

Schools receive a scheme participation certificate.

Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 parents/carers receive a Road Safety guide booklet.

Protocol for Walk Safe in schools:

These guidelines outline the responsibilities for the visiting member of the road safety team and for the school.

The school's preparation for the visit:

- To arrange the venue where the sessions will take place and provide resources such as DVD player if required
- Key Stage 2 practical walk session requires the school to provide adult help, organise the children into groups of **ten** prior to the visit and obtain parental permission to take the children off site
- The class teacher or teaching assistant should plan to be present at the session so that they can deal with any follow up questions or concerns
- The visit should be part of an integrated PSHE programme with appropriate planning and follow-up work.

The road safety team's preparation for the visit:

- The training is risk assessed by the road safety team the site used for practical on road training will be assessed prior to each session
- Road safety staff understand the needs and emotional and intellectual levels of the children involved and will communicate at the appropriate level
- We will provide fluorescent/reflective tabards for children and adults for the practical on road training sessions for KS 2
- The road safety team may cancel the practical on-road session if weather or traffic/road conditions are unsuitable for training purposes

For further information regarding road safety education please contact: