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Road Safety Assembly/Presentation - script

For class size:

Approx 30.

In smaller classes, some children will need to take more than one of the speaking parts. In larger classes, the speaking parts can be easily divided between more children.

Duration:

Approx 15 minutes

Props/costumes to make or collect

Two 'lollipops' and two white coats

Charts showing facts and figures

Eight cut-out steering wheels

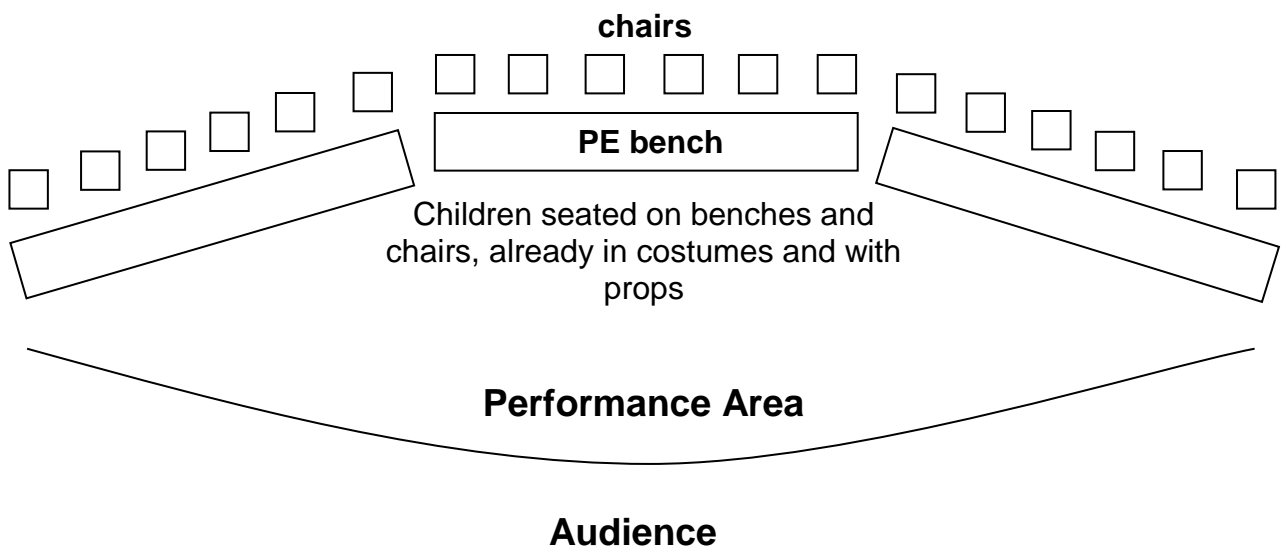
Two outdoor coats

A mobile phone and headphones

Two bicycles, one with lights and reflector

A cycle helmet and hi-vis bib, armbands or coat

Seating



(Alf, a lollipop man and Audrey, a lollipop lady, stand centre stage.)

Alf Good morning everybody. My name's Alf.

Audrey And my name's Audrey. We are school crossing patrol officers.

All School crossing patrol officers?

Alf You'll know us better as 'lollipop people'. It's a lovely job, working in the fresh air and meeting lots of interesting folk. It's very different to the job I had when I was younger – I used to be an ambulance driver.

Audrey And I used to be a road traffic police officer. Between us, over the years, we've seen some things that we'll never forget.

Alf Now, we're not here to frighten you, but to share with you some helpful tips that will mean you all stay safe when you're out and about, on and near the road.

Audrey But first, seeing as this is a school day, here are a few facts and figures for you to digest, just to get your brains working.

(They stand to one side and 4 children stand centre stage. They can be holding cards/sheets that display the facts.)

Child 1 According to the Department for Transport – they're the people who collect all this information – last year 15,721 children were injured on British roads. 48 were killed.

Child 2 20 of these 48 were in cars. 22 were pedestrians – that means they were on foot – and 6 were on bicycles.

Child 3 The total number has halved in the last ten years, which is sort of good news. However, this is probably because a lot fewer children now walk to school, or to places which are less than a mile away. Most are driven there in cars.

Child 4 40 years ago, 86% of children (nearly all of us) walked or cycled to school. Today, it's only 25% - a quarter. Why is this?

(Two parents, each with a small child, stand. Parent 1 holds a steering wheel to signify he/she is driving. Parent 2 and child are wearing coats to signify they are walking.)

Parent 1 Well it's simple. Roads are dangerous, especially as there's a lot more traffic on them these days.

Parent 2 Well, there'd be a lot less traffic if more children walked to school instead of being driven!

Parent 1 Well, more children would be allowed to walk to school if there was less traffic on the roads!

Parent 2 Well, like I said, there'd be a lot less traffic on the roads if more children walked to school!

Parent 1 And like I said, more children would be allowed to walk to school if there was less traffic!

Parent 2 And like I said, there'd be.....

Alf *(butting in)* Yes, yes, I think we get the picture, but all this arguing isn't getting us anywhere.

Audrey We all know that it's better for our health to spend less time in the car and more time doing exercise, like walking and cycling.

Alf What we need to do is learn how to do these things safely and reduce the risk of accidents on or near the road. So, let's start off with a few basics.

(Children 1-4, the parents and their two children sit down. Children 5, 6, 7 and 8 stand.)

Child 5 Younger children should always walk with a grown up. They should always hold hands when walking near roads.

Child 6 And if it's dark or foggy then it's best to wear brightly-coloured or reflective clothing, so you can be seen at all times.

Child 7 Of course, when you get older, walking with a grown up can have its problems.....

(Parent 3 stands, holding hands with a sulky, taller child.)

Tall Child Mum! This is so embarrassing! I'm in year 6! Do I really need to hold your hand?

Child 8 For many of us, the worst thing in the world is to be seen out in public with our parents! We therefore have to prove to them that we know how to be safe on our own.

Parent 3 Well, OK. But do I at least get a kiss goodbye?

Tall Child MUM!

(Parent 3 sits. Tall child proceeds to take out a mobile phone and put earphones in. S/he looks closely at the screen and nods her/head in time to the music.)

Child 5 Using a mobile phone, for whatever reason, when walking near roads is an absolute 'no no'. You have to concentrate at all times, looking and listening for possible dangers.

(Tall child pays no attention, still staring at the screen and listening to the music.)

All *(shouting)* USING A MOBILE PHONE, FOR WHATEVER REASON, WHEN WALKING NEAR ROADS IS AN ABSOLUTE 'NO NO'!

Tall Child *(suddenly taking notice and putting the phone away)* Oh! Sorry.

(Children 5, 6, 7 and 8 sit. Children 9 and 10 stand.)

Child 9 So, let's assume we now know that we need to concentrate and be super aware when walking near roads. But what should we do when we want to cross one?

Child 10 Well, on school days it's best to try and cross where someone like Alf or Audrey is on duty. Audrey, Alf, perhaps you'd like to demonstrate?

Audrey & Alf Of course.

(They step forward and, with Tall Child, act out the following procedure they narrate.)

Audrey Now, we'll be waiting at the side of the road, where you should come and stand.

(More children with steering wheels, representing traffic, pass in front of them.)

Alf When there is a convenient gap in the traffic we will walk to the middle of the road and hold up our lollipop. This tells any approaching traffic to stop.

Audrey Then, only when we judge it to be safe, we will tell you to cross, *(beckoning to Tall Child)* like this. When you have reached the other side, we will move from the middle of the road and indicate to the traffic to continue on its way.

(Alf and Audrey move to the side. Tall Child and children 9 and 10 sit. Children 11 and 12 stand.)

Child 11 But what if there isn't a lollipop person around when you want to cross the road?

Child 12 Well, the first thing to look for is a pelican crossing.....I'm just waiting for someone to pipe up with an obvious joke.....

Child 13 *(calling from the back)* Excuse me.....

Child 12 ...here we go.....

Child 13 ...but why would a large-beaked water bird be trying to cross a busy road?

Child 12 *(sighing)* It's a crossing that's controlled by lights which stop the traffic. The pedestrian is then told, by way of a flashing green man and a beeping sound, that it's safe to cross. 'Pelican' or 'pelicon' as it was called, is short for '**PE**destrian **L**ight **CON**trolled crossing.

Child 11 Yes, nothing to do with water birds! If there isn't a pelican crossing nearby, then look for a zebra crossing....wait for it....

Child 13 *(calling from the back)* Excuse me.....

Child 12 ...here we go again.....

Child 13 ...but why would a black and white equine animal, native to Africa, be trying to cross a busy road?

Child 12 Well, obviously to get to the chemists on the other side. It needs some throat sweets you see, as it's a little hoarse!

(Children 11 and 12 sit. Children 14, 15, 16 and 17 stand.)

Child 14 A lot of the time you may want to cross a road where there is no official pedestrian crossing. Now, this is where you really need to concentrate, as being aware and making the right decisions is vital for your safety.

Child 15 So, let's demonstrate the correct procedure for crossing a road. This is what you older ones might remember as the green cross code, and it's as important these days as it's ever been.

Child 16 Right, let's have a couple of volunteers.....*(looking at the audience and picking two people)*....yes, you two will do nicely.

(The volunteers stand between children 14, 15, 16 and 17, in a line facing the audience. They act out what is narrated. Again, children with steering wheels pass in front when it is indicated in the narration.)

Child 16 First, you need to find a safe place to cross.

Child 17 This should be somewhere where you can see clearly in all directions and where drivers can see you. For this reason, NEVER cross between parked cars, where there's a bend in the road or close to the top of a hill.

Child 14 Stand just back from the kerb and look all around for traffic, in every direction. Listen too, because sometimes you can hear traffic before you can see it.

Child 15 If traffic is coming, let it pass, then look and listen again. Wait until there is a safe gap in the traffic and you are certain you have plenty of time to cross.

Child 16 Walk straight across the road – don't run. Keep looking and listening for traffic until you have safely reached the pavement on the other side. Once across, give yourself a pat on the back and carry on with your journey.

Child 17 Following these steps carefully will mean you can be trusted to walk places on your own....no more holding hands with mum in public!

(The volunteers and Children 14, 15, 16 and 17 sit down. Alf and Audrey step forward.)

Audrey As I said before, in our old jobs Alf and I saw some shocking things on the road. We've both witnessed many accidents involving cyclists.

Alf Of course, in a collision between a bike and a car, a cyclist is always going to come off second-best. We'd therefore like to spend a few minutes talking about cycle safety.

(Children 18, 19, and 20 stand.)

Child 18 Here's a question: when should you be allowed to start riding your bike on the road? Answer: NEVER....well, not until you've successfully completed a cycle training course, like the 'Bikeability' one which many schools provide.

Child 19 These courses teach you everything you need to know to be safe on your bike. You'll learn how to use correct hand signals, what to do at roundabouts, traffic lights and pedestrian crossings and how to be aware of other road users. Just like driving a car, you really shouldn't take a bike on the road until you've passed a test to show you know what you're doing.

Child 20 And just like a car itself, your bike needs to be checked to make sure it's safe and roadworthy. And you need to be wearing the correct gear, so ***you're*** safe and roadworthy too. Let's show you what we mean.

(Children 21 and 22 ride to the front on bikes. Child 21 wears a helmet and hi-vis jacket, Child 22 doesn't. Child 21's bike saddle is the right height, Child 22's isn't. Child 21's bike has a front light and rear reflector, Child 22's bike doesn't. Two mechanics in boiler suits, carrying clip boards, stand by the cyclists and inspect.)

Mechanic 1 *(to Child 21)* Right, first things first, let's look at your brakes. Yes, they seem fine. A lot of rubber still on those pads. Check.

Mechanic 2 *(to Child 22)* Tut tut! They're a bit worn! In fact I've seen more rubber on the end of a pencil!

Mechanic 1 *(to Child 21)* Yes, your seat's the right height. Your toes are comfortably touching the ground. Check.

Mechanic 2 *(to Child 22)* Dear oh dear! Either that seat's too low or you've pinched this bike from a 3 year-old!

Mechanic 1 *(to Child 21)* Front light and rear reflector present and in working order. Check.

Mechanic 2 *(to Child 22)* Ah, I see you've gone for those new invisible lights! Tut tut!

Mechanic 1 *(to Child 21)* And finally, helmet and hi-visibility jacket. Check. You're good to go!

Child 21 *(riding off)* Cool! Come on mate, *(to Child 22)* race ya!

(Child 22 attempts to follow but is held back by Mechanic 2.)

Mechanic 2 *(to Child 22)* Woah! You're going nowhere without a helmet, even though a bump to the head might knock some sense into you. Wheel that bike back home *(handing him/her a sheet from the clipboard)* and don't bring it out until everything on this list is sorted.

(All sit as Alf and Audrey stand at the front.)

Audrey So there we have it. Lots for everybody to think about. Wouldn't it be fantastic if next year's figures for children involved in road accidents, whether as pedestrians or as cyclists, were all zero?

Alf Well, if you've paid attention to what we've told you, and you put it into practice, who knows, maybe that just might happen. Now, for those of you who didn't have any breakfast and have therefore been dozing during our presentation, we've summarized everything in a catchy little song for you.

Audrey So, on your feet and let's hear everyone joining in, as we all get.....

All STREETWISE!

Song – Let's Get Streetwise

THE END