

MAKE EVERY JOURNEY A GOOD ONE

STICK TO THE TRAVEL CODE.

KEY STAGE 3 ASSEMBLY PLAN



Introduction for Teachers

Children and young people are entitled to safe travel. Those travelling with or near them are also entitled to safe travel. The majority of learners behave well while travelling to and from school or college, although poor and disruptive behaviour can be a problem. This is a real threat to safety and can have tragic consequences.

The Welsh Assembly Government is determined to support local authorities, operators, drivers and schools who have to deal with poor and disruptive behaviour. That's why the Welsh Assembly Government has introduced The Travel Code. The aim of the Travel Code is to improve safety on school transport by tackling unacceptable behaviour. **The Travel Code** promotes safe travel for all learners, by setting out the standards of behaviour required. Children and young people were involved in developing the Travel Code with workshops taking place across Wales to gather their ideas, input and feedback.

The Travel Code carries penalties. If the Travel Code is not followed, local authorities, schools or other education institutions can take actions against children and young people. This might involve withdrawing their entitlement to school transport for a period of time and ultimately exclusion from school.

As a practitioner you can play an important role, bringing to the attention of children and young people their rights, acceptable behaviour and the consequences of unacceptable behaviour. The Assembly has adopted the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Consequently, teaching about rights needs to reflect that rights are universal and inalienable and not linked to, or dependent upon behaving in a particular way. It is also important to note that by accepting a right for yourself you are also accepting it for others and should not behave in a way that limits others enjoyment of their rights

Information can be found at <http://www.wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople> and also at <http://www.uncrcletsgetitright.co.uk>

This assembly plan is designed to help you raise children and young people's awareness and understanding of the Travel Code. Thank you for your support in this important work.

For more information or to refer this to a colleague, please visit <http://www.travelcode.org>



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Background

This assembly plan introduces the All Wales Travel Behaviour Code. There are several key concepts underpinning the Travel Code: concepts such as rights, behaviour and codes of conduct. The assembly plan does not attempt to introduce these concepts but uses a simple story and accompanying PowerPoint slides to illustrate the reasons for a Travel Code, and to introduce the Travel Code itself.

The lesson can also contribute to raising awareness of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), in particular Articles 2, 3, 6, 13, 28, 29 and 42. Resources to support the teaching of the UNCRC can be found at <http://www.uncrcletsgetitright.co.uk>

Resources

- UNCRC resources, to learn about rights, can be found on the Let's Get It Right site at <http://www.uncrcletsgetitright.co.uk>
- PowerPoint slides, *KS3 Assembly Introduction to the Travel Code*, available from the Travel Code website: <http://www.travelcode.org>
- Copies of the Travel Code (available from the website)
- Travel Code posters (available from the website)
- Six pupils are required, in three pairs. Each pair plays the victim and the perpetrator of a relevant scene from the video. It's important for a rehearsal of the script to have taken place. The character pairs should be clearly visible and audible. As an example presentation, the pairs could be side on to the audience and back-to-back to each other to represent they are different sides of the same character.

Timings

- Depending on the contribution from pupils, the assembly will take about 15-20 minutes.

Introduction

Good morning everyone. The theme of our assembly today is about your journey to and from school. [The following questions could be rhetorical or used as a starting point for response and discussion]

- Do you enjoy your journey to school or do you just put up with it?
- Do you ever give it a moment's thought or do you dread it?
- When you travel to school, do you feel safe?
- And what about your own attitude and behaviour? If you get to school by bus, how do you treat the driver and other passengers?

Main Section

Let's take a look at a short video. Show video, *Would U Sit Next to U?* available at <http://www.travelcode.org>

Well, would you want to sit next to you?

Let's ask the characters from the video what they think. [Turning to the pupils playing the parts of each pair of characters in the video.]

Teacher: [To Boy on Bus 1] You sat behind him on the bus. Was the music annoying?

Boy on Bus 1: Yes, I thought so. So did others on the bus.

Teacher [To Boy on Bus 2 with MP3 player]: Your MP3 player was a bit loud wasn't it?

Boy on Bus 2: It didn't bother me.

Boy on Bus 1: But it bothered me!

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Boy on Bus 2: That's your problem. I wasn't doing any harm.

Teacher: Well apart from the damage to his hearing, he didn't cause any real harm, but it was certainly spoiling the journey for lots of other passengers. Let's leave that for the moment. [Turns to the two girls and speaks to the girl who was picked on] You were picked on as you walked to school. How did you feel about what happened?

Girl 1: At first I was a bit confused. I didn't know why it was happening. Then I got upset when I thought others were laughing at me.

Teacher: Do you think it's fair what happened to you?

Girl 1: No I don't.

Teacher: If I said that you had a right not to be bullied or picked on as you came to school, what would you say?

Girl 1: I'd say that sounds like a good thing.

Teacher: Well let's see what your other self thinks. [Turning to Girl 2, who did the bullying] What did you actually do?

Girl 2: Nothing much.

Teacher: Something happened. What did you do?

Girl 2: I just looked at her and spat on the ground. I never touched her.

Teacher: Wasn't the spitting a direct insult? Wasn't it like saying, 'I don't like you and I don't think you're worth anything'?

Girl 2: It might have been.

Teacher: So if you have a right to be safe and not picked on, doesn't that mean you also have a responsibility to respect other people's rights and not to pick on them?

Girl 2: Maybe...

Teacher: Let's see what happened on the bike now. [Turning to Boy on Bike 1, the boy who was kicked off the bike] Do you think you also have a right to be safe as you ride your bike?

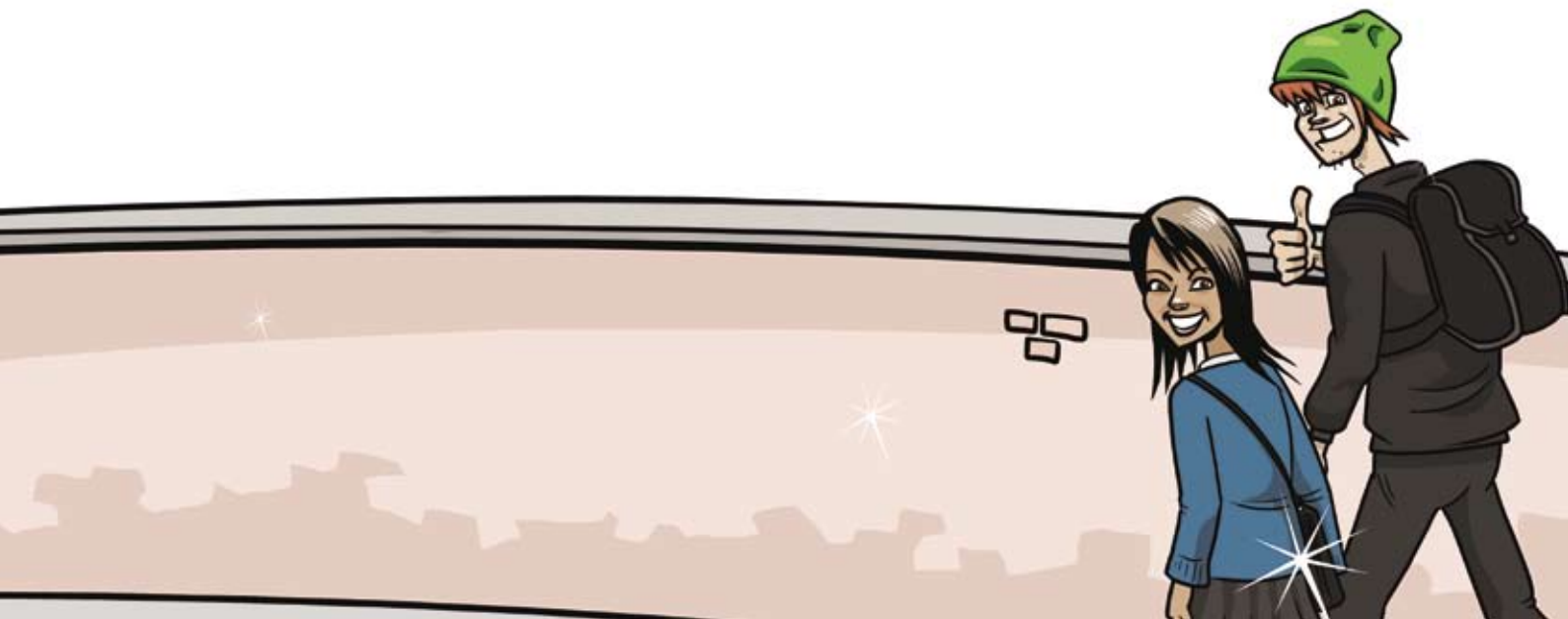
Boy on Bike 1: Yes I do. I don't think it's right for others to put me in danger.

Teacher: [Turning to Boy on Bike 2, who kicked the bike] You could have been responsible for a dangerous accident couldn't you?

Boy on Bike 2: I don't think it was that bad. I didn't think anything would happen.

Teacher: But if it did and he had fallen off the bike and hurt himself, then you would be to blame, wouldn't you? It wouldn't have happened if you hadn't kicked the bike so you would be responsible for it happening, wouldn't you?

Boy on Bike 2: Yes.



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Teacher: OK. Thank you all for taking part. [Turning to audience. The following questions could be rhetorical or used as a starting point for response and discussion]

- What do you think about what we have seen and heard?
- What rights do you have as you travel to school?
- What are your responsibilities to the happiness and safety of others?
- What should be the consequences for those who don't live up to their responsibilities?
- Well, if you're still not sure, you can take a look at this. This is the All Wales Travel Behaviour Code.

At this point, use the PowerPoint slide set to introduce the All Wales Travel Behaviour Code is, what pupils' rights are and what responsibilities they have too. Key points from the Travel Code are:

- A code is a set of rules to follow.
- Pupils have the right to a safe and fair journey.
- Pupils should tell a responsible adult if they are having problems.
- Pupils must behave responsibly and safely too, when they are travelling to and from school.
- If pupils travel by bus to school they must also follow the rules in the School Bus Travel Code.
- If pupils do not follow the Travel Code it could be serious pupils might even lose the right to school transport and even be excluded from school.

Summary

Recap some of the discussion points and replay the video.

Next Steps

- Copies of the Travel Code could be distributed.
- Reminders could be given about the Travel Code posters in school.
- The assembly could be used as an introduction for Key Stage 3 pupils to learn about it in more detail in a short lesson. See the accompanying Key Stage 3 Lesson Plan on the Travel Code website.

