

ROAD SAFETY WEEK 2021

Road Safety Heroes assembly for secondary schools



Thank you for taking part in Road Safety Week 2021 and helping young people learn about safe and healthy journeys and engage with the road safety issues that affect them.

The theme of Road Safety Week 2021 is Road Safety Heroes, celebrating the amazing work of road safety professionals, and explaining how we can all play a part in making journeys safer for everyone.

Road Safety Week is an ideal time to hold an assembly that focuses on road safety. This year, in keeping with our theme, we invite you to host a celebration of Road Safety Heroes. We hope you will be able to invite some of your community's Road Safety Heroes into school to talk about what they do. At the end of the assembly, you can hold a simple awards ceremony where students present visitors with a Road Safety Hero award.

The suggestions given right are just an outline. You can adapt this to suit your school's needs or to highlight any road safety issues that may be particularly relevant in your local area.

Your Road Safety Week action pack also includes plans for lessons to deliver during Road Safety Week. These lessons will enable you to link your teaching to some of the key messages of Road Safety Week 2021.

A note about sensitivity

Discussions about road safety should be approached with care. If you are aware that a student has been affected by a road crash, either directly or indirectly, please talk to them and their parent or carer before involving them in any Road Safety Week activities. Please take individual needs into consideration when planning your activities and carry out risk assessments where required. Please watch any films before presenting in assembly to make sure they are suitable for your students.

The assembly

1 Introduce Road Safety Week 2021

Explain that Road Safety Week is the UK's biggest annual road safety event.

Explain that Road Safety Week 2021 is taking place this week (15-21 November) and that you will be talking about Road Safety Heroes.

Explain that everyone who helps make journeys safer and healthier or helps care for someone after a crash is a road safety hero.

2 Talk about road safety heroes

Here are some examples of road safety heroes:

- School crossing patrols
- Roads policing officers
- Road designers and highway engineers
- Fire and rescue services
- Ambulance services
- Medical staff in hospitals
- Other health professionals
- Police family liaison officers
- Support services
- Road safety charities
- Road crash victims
- Parents and carers
- Employers
- Everyone who uses roads safely to protect themselves and others.

You can use the factsheet for educators in your Road Safety Week action pack for more detail about different road safety heroes.

Continued→



www.brake.org.uk/road-safety-week #RoadSafetyWeek

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3 Talk about why we need road safety heroes

Unfortunately every day a lot of people are killed and badly injured in road crashes, including children and young people. Share some of the following statistics if appropriate:

- More than 1.3 million people die on the world's roads every year
- Road crashes are the leading cause of death for children and young people worldwide
- More than six children are killed or seriously injured on roads every day in the UK
- Road crashes have a devastating effect on families and communities
- Pollution from traffic causes respiratory illnesses and other diseases
- Active travel such as walking and cycling is good for the nation's health and good for the planet
- Good post-crash care is essential to save lives and prevent life-changing injuries.

4 Invite a local road safety professional into school to talk about the work they do OR watch a short film about road safety heroes

<https://www.youtube.com/user/Brake-Global>

5 Road Safety Heroes Awards

Hold a Road Safety Heroes Awards ceremony to celebrate the road safety heroes in your community.

Examples of people you can present awards to include:

- Your local road safety officer
- Your school crossing patrol
- Someone who has campaigned for road safety for your school
- Parents/carers who work for emergency services
- Cycle trainer
- Members of emergency services that you have invited to attend your assembly.

Ask students to present the awards explaining to each person why they are a road safety hero.

If you've ordered selfie props or stickers from the Brake shop you can present these. Selfie props are blank on the back so students can write their own message.

Please share photos of your awards on social media. Please tag us @brakecharity and use #RoadSafetyWeek.

6 Everyone can be a road safety hero

Ask students to think about how they can be a road safety hero by using roads safely.

Remind students that we all share a responsibility to use roads safely, and this includes people who walk, scoot and ride, as well as people who drive. Say that they shouldn't use their phone when walking near roads/crossing roads and they should cycle safely, using lights when it's dark. They can also speak up for road safety and remind others to drive at safe and appropriate speeds; to never use their phone while driving; and to always wear a seat belt.

7 Thank you and summary

Remind students that you are taking part in Road Safety Week and talking about road safety heroes.

Tell them that everyone can be a road safety hero by using roads safely to protect themselves and others and by speaking up for road safety.

Your Road Safety Week action pack is available at www.brake.org.uk/road-safety-week/action-pack.

For more ideas and resources for schools to take part in Road Safety Week 2021, go to www.brake.org.uk/road-safety-week/schools.

References

World Health Organisation. 2018. Global Status Report on Road Safety 2018. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/global-status-report-on-road-safety-2018>

Department for Transport. 2021. Reported Road Casualties in Great Britain: 2020 Annual Report. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/reported-road-casualties-great-britain-annual-report-2020>

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