

# JRSO

JUNIOR ROAD SAFETY OFFICER

## **EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION**

[www.jrso.com](http://www.jrso.com)

## Introduction

In an average year, 3,000 children are injured on Scotland's roads. Of that number, around 1,700 are pedestrians. Schools and parents are not always aware of the high number of road traffic accidents in which children are involved. Emphasis is often placed on more topical issues such as drugs and stranger danger.

Road Traffic Accidents (RTAs) cause the majority of accidental deaths for children and young people in Scotland.

The Annual Report of the Registrar General for Scotland 2000 shows the number of accidental deaths\* for the 0-19 age group:

51 died in RTAs  
4 died from drowning  
2 died from drugs

Many accidents are preventable by providing parents, carers and children with relevant information.

The Government has set new targets for casualty reduction for the year 2010. The aim is to achieve a 50% reduction in the number of children killed or seriously injured on our roads.

## Road Safety Education (RSE): A Strategy for Scotland

The Scottish Road Safety Campaign (SRSC) is implementing a national strategy for RSE for all schools in Scotland, to try to reduce the number of child casualties on our roads. The aim of the strategy is to ensure that all children and young people in Scotland receive a minimum amount of RSE in their school career – covering specific topics at certain times.

Research recommendations form the basis of the strategy, which will deliver a structured and long-term approach to RSE in Scotland.

The main recommendations are:

- All children should receive a minimum amount of RSE in their school career.
- Guidelines should be developed, so that there is a consistent approach to RSE in Scottish schools.
- RSE should link to road safety attainment targets in the Health Education 5-14 National Guidelines.
- RSE should be taught in Personal and Social Development (PSD) within 'personal safety'. Other subjects should be encouraged to use road safety as a topic, but this would be in addition to PSD.
- The main responsibility for the delivery of RSE should be the class teacher in primary school.

*\*These figures exclude 4 drownings and 6 drug-related deaths, where the cause was undetermined (i.e. accident, assault, or intentional self-harm).*

- RSE materials should be teacher-friendly (including teachers' notes, suggested lesson plans, assessment opportunities, curricular links) and pupil-friendly (covering a range of activities and incorporating ICT).
- RSE materials should be made available directly from the SRSC website, as well as hard copies
- The strategy should be endorsed at the highest level (e.g. by the Scottish Minister of Education).

A Road Safety Education Strategy Steering Group, with representatives from education (HMIE, SEED, LTS), road safety and health has been established. The aim of this group is to develop the strategy, working in partnership with other relevant organisations and professionals. An Education Officer has been appointed to the SRSC to oversee the implementation of the strategy, under the guidance of the steering group.

## Background

The aim of a Junior Road Safety Officer's (JRSO) scheme is to empower children to highlight road safety issues within their school. This can be done through raising awareness amongst other pupils, teachers and the community, while maintaining links with their Road Safety Officer (RSO).

The scheme has been around for some time in various English counties and has been adopted by certain Scottish Local Authorities since 1995. A feasibility study was carried out in 2001 to determine the level of interest in a national JRSO Scheme, supported by the SRSC. Consultation was carried out with RSOs, teachers and JRSOs. It was felt that this scheme would make a valuable contribution to road safety education \*\*. In January 2002 the SRSC Education Sub-committee agreed to develop a national JRSO scheme. Standard Life Assurance Company also agreed to co-fund the scheme.

## About the Scheme

Every primary school is encouraged to appoint two JRSOs from Primary 6 or 7 for a one-year period. When the JRSOs start their 'job', they will receive some form of induction from their RSO and be given their pack for the year. They may also be given themes for the year to work on, but these can be broad enough to include their own local initiatives.

The JRSOs have responsibility for 4 main tasks, which are: putting up and maintaining a prominent notice board; running school competitions; giving class or assembly presentations; and using their website [www.jrso.com](http://www.jrso.com).

It is important that someone in the school supports the JRSOs on a regular basis, be it a class teacher, class room assistant or parent. The RSO will also agree to visit the helper and JRSOs a number of times during the school year. There is a separate Helper's Guide which gives advice about their task. It would be useful if the helper could attend the induction day with the JRSOs.

\*\* Copies of the full report can be obtained from the SRSC.

## Educational Links

### Citizenship

The JRSO scheme links to Citizenship. It gives pupils opportunities to develop as a whole person, by increasing their knowledge and understanding of topical issues and by developing their "core skills" and other generic skills and competencies.

The Education for Citizenship in Scotland Paper states:

"Young people's education in school ... has a key role to play in fostering a moderate democratic society, whose members have a clear sense of identity and belonging, feel empowered to participate effectively in their communities and recognise their roles and responsibilities as global citizens".

Being a JRSO enables pupils to use and develop their "core skills":

- Communication skills
- Ability to work confidently with numerical information
- ICT skills
- Ability to work well with others
- Problem-solving skills

Being a JRSO also enables pupils to use and develop other generic skills and competencies:

- Capacity to work autonomously in pursuit of one's own needs and purposes and those of communities
- Decision-making skills
- Creative skills
- Ability to respond in imaginative ways to challenges
- Ability to consider and empathise with the experience and perspective of others

### Health Education

JRSO activities link to road safety attainment targets in the Health Education 5-14 National Guidelines. There are road safety attainment targets from Level A to Level F. The SRSC Primary Pack is available from August 2003 for additional road safety activities.

### Environmental Studies & ICT

JRSO activities link to attainment targets in Environmental Studies and ICT.

## JRSO Pack

At the beginning of the school year the new JRSOs will receive a pack (maximum of 2 per school) from their RSO. The RSO will then go through the pack with them, explaining what their role will be during the coming year.

The pack contains an activity book for the JRSOs to use and write in. There are also photocopiable sheets including:-

- A year planner
- General road safety information
- How to make a notice board and design ideas
- How to talk at an assembly along with road safety topics
- How to run a competition with ideas
- Information about the 'Safety Street' CD-ROM
- Information on the 'Streetwise Guys' website
- Word bank
- JRSO application form for next year's JRSOs
- JRSO advertisement
- Competition winner's certificate
- JRSO headed writing paper
- Useful contacts

They will also receive a special JRSO lapel badge and pen.

One copy of a CD-ROM called 'Safety Street' will be provided to every school participating in the JRSO scheme.

'Streetwise Guys' website is aimed at 8-12 year olds and can be found at [www.streetwiseguys.co.uk](http://www.streetwiseguys.co.uk) . It is an interactive site with road safety games, which are fun to play.

They should be encouraged to use [www.jrso.com](http://www.jrso.com) which is a specifically designed website for them. They can check local information, find out what other JRSOs are doing, upload their own work and enter competitions.

Your local RSO may add additional items such as the 'Arrive Alive' Highway Code, posters, leaflets, etc. to the pack.

## Examples of Good Practice

Below are some examples of JRSO activities, which demonstrate good practice of the scheme.

- JRSOs have been involved in monitoring the number of people involved in "School Gate Parking". The information gathered was then used by the School Board at a parent's evening to highlight the dangers to pupils caused by inconsiderate parking. The JRSO notice-board featured pictures drawn by pupils on the same theme and took pride of place at the school entrance.

- 'Safety Street' CD-ROM was downloaded onto every school computer. JRSOs took focus groups of children for training, who then went back and cascaded the information to the rest of the class.
- RSOs played an active role in the school's "Walk to School" week, which involved road safety work with each class.

## Suggested Annual Timetable

Here is an example timetable of activities associated with the scheme throughout the school year, to help you integrate the scheme within the schools forward plans.

Start of the new school year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All new JRSOs should have been recruited by the school during the previous term.</li> <li>• You will be given a date by your RSO as to when the pupils will receive their pack. This may include attending an induction at a central venue with their adult helper/teacher.</li> </ul>
September - December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular meetings should be set up with the adult/teacher helper to work through their first theme, put up the notice board, run a competition, give class talks or an assembly and look at <a href="http://www.jrso.com">www.jrso.com</a>.</li> </ul>
February – April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The RSO may visit the JRSOs and provide them with any additional materials and resources to support their next theme.</li> <li>• The notice board should be updated, class talks or assembly organised and a competition organised within the school.</li> </ul>
May – June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The job advertisement for next year's JRSOs should be photocopied and displayed in the school.</li> <li>• Application forms should also be photocopied and circulated (both of these are found in the JRSO activity book).</li> <li>• Interviews should be set up with current JRSOs and adult/teacher helper to select next year's JRSOs.</li> <li>• The names of the new JRSOs should be given to the RSO.</li> <li>• The new JRSOs buddy current JRSOs to find out what their job will entail.</li> </ul>

## Resources

The Scottish Road Safety Campaign provides the following wide range of resources free of charge to schools.

- **Road Safety Education: A Strategy for Scotland leaflet**
- **Pre-school**
  - The Children's Traffic Club in Scotland (CTCS) Nursery & Playgroup Pack
  - CTCS gym cards
  - CTCS parents card and stickers
- **Primary**
  - Primary Pack
  - Scottish Cycle Training Scheme
  - P6 Play 'The Journey', including support material
  - Smart Moves CD-ROM

If you want to find out more about these resources please contact your local RSO.

## Useful Contacts

Local Road Safety Officer

Scottish Road Safety Campaign	<a href="http://www.srsc.org.uk">www.srsc.org.uk</a>
Streetwise Guys	<a href="http://www.streetwiseguys.co.uk">www.streetwiseguys.co.uk</a>
Department for Transport	<a href="http://www.dft.gov.uk">www.dft.gov.uk</a>
Standard Life	<a href="http://www.standardlife.com">www.standardlife.com</a>
JRSO	<a href="http://www.jrso.com">www.jrso.com</a>

## Acknowledgements

The SRSC would like to thank the JRSO Working Group:  
Karen Frost, Standard Life Assurance Company, Margaret Graham, South Ayrshire Council,  
Linda Kiernan, Lothian & Borders Police, Margaret Dickson, Inverclyde.



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