





Road Safety Education Integration into the Curriculum

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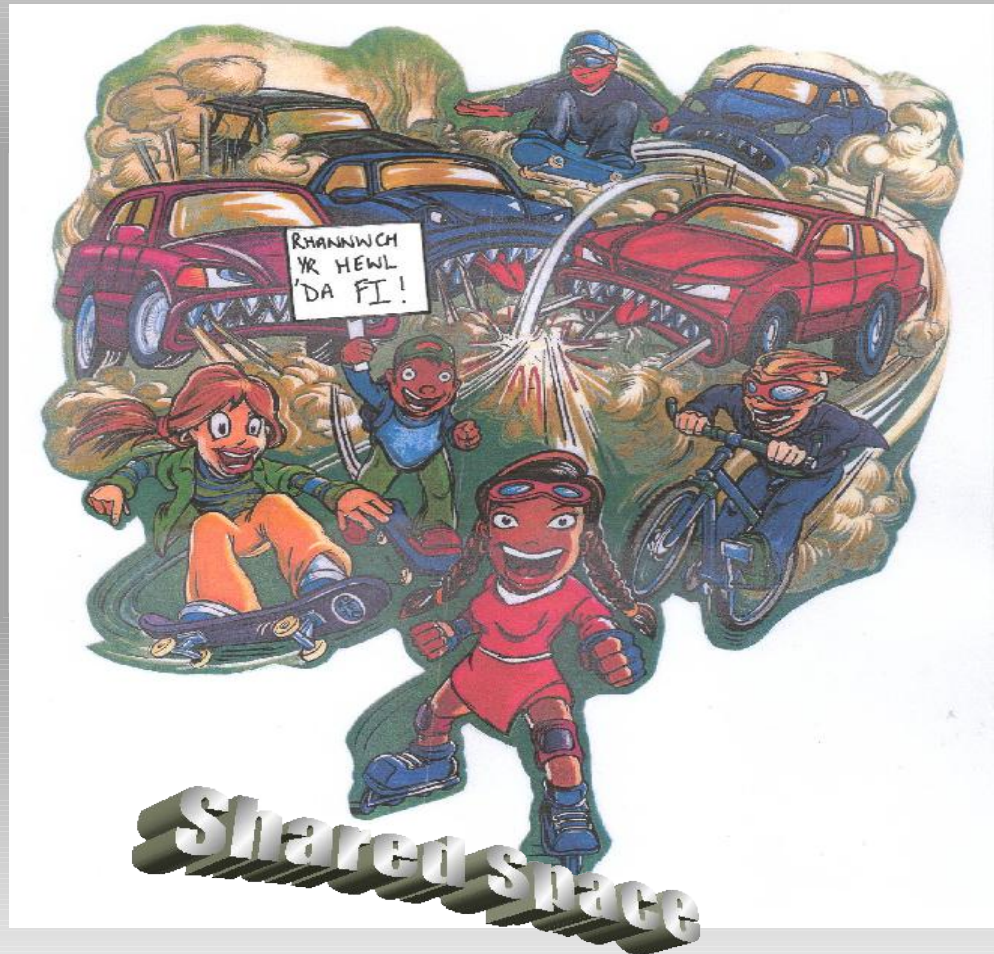
WHY INTEGRATE?

- Because young people between the ages of 17 and 24 are the most likely to be involved in crashes with fatal consequences – this is not acceptable!

What We Think We Know

- Our young people have the potential to be the best drivers on our roads
- Our young people are much more likely to crash than older drivers, even newly qualified ones
- The two main reasons are generally deemed to be **attitude** and **inexperience**

The Road Environment



The Road Environment

- The road environment is:

Shared

- The road environment is:

Complex

The Road Environment (2)

- RULES
- RISKS
- VEHICLES
- DRIVERS

So, what have we got?

- A **space shared** by a mix of vulnerable people and lethal weapons
- **Lethal weapons** in the control of operators of varying ability and experience
- Most people not knowing *all* the **rules**
- Many people likely to *break* some of the **rules** they do know = **taking risks**
- **AN UNPREDICTABLE, DANGEROUS ENVIRONMENT** – *c.f.* doing a bungee jump

Young Drivers

- Have had 17 years subliminal driver education as passengers, given by their parents, friends, taxi-drivers, school bus etc
- Might have had some road safety education at Primary School including how to cross the road and possibly some cycle training

Young Drivers (2)

- Will probably not have had any road safety education at secondary school
- May have had a day or so of pre-driver 'education' in 'intervention' style
- Will only have had between 20 and 40 **hours** professional driver tuition with an ADI
- May have had a bit of practice with a non-professional supervisory driver

What do we do?

- We let them loose in charge of a lethal weapon in that complex, unpredictable and dangerous environment
- We let them drive amongst a host of other people, some vulnerable, some also operating lethal weapons - with varying levels of competency and varying attitudes!!

It's Their Fault – or is it?

- When they get it wrong – have or cause a crash, involving injury or even death – **WE BLAME THEM!**
- **We** created the car culture, the complex road layouts, the system with minimum and very basic levels of education and training
- **It's time WE took the blame and tried to put things right!**

Young Driver Education

- Driving is a 'skill for life'
- There probably isn't a child today who won't either become a driver or, at the least, a passenger in a young driver's vehicle
- Life skills should be taught in the curriculum and reinforced at home

Young Driver Education (2)

- Remember the two main reasons for young driver involvement in crashes – **'attitude'** and **'inexperience'**?
- Isn't it also about **'lack of road safety education'**?
- Better education can both improve attitude and enhance experience

Young Driver Education (3)

- Starts from birth
- 'Attitude' is either 'learned' or brought about by 'hormones' and 'peer pressure'
- It is easier to 'develop' attitude than it is to 'change' it – this can be done in the curriculum

EVERY CHILD MATTERS!

- Life skills such as road safety should be taught in the curriculum
- The more you know and understand about your environment, the safer you will be in it
- Road Safety i.e. learning about the road environment, not just how to cross the road – should be written into the curriculum in a robust, progressive, meaningful and consistent way across the UK, so every child has access to it!

EVERY CHILD MATTERS (2)

- Any scheme should aim to give **every** child the road safety skills and knowledge they require, not only for the stage that they are at, but also to build a foundation of understanding of the road environment that will be invaluable to them when they become drivers
- It shouldn't be just for the children that the road safety officers and school can find the time for!

Interventions

- Interventions have their place, collating together what a young person should know and serving as strong reminders of the validity of all the road safety messages they will have received throughout their school career
- Interventions should **NOT** be an easy opt-out of our obligations to our young people, a **substitute** for proper and thorough education, a convenient tick-box exercise so we can shift the blame – ‘They were told’

Young Driver Training

- Wouldn't it be good if ADI's no longer had to take on pupils who haven't even grasped that we drive on the left??!!!
- Wouldn't it be great if ADI's could concentrate on driving skills and techniques, hazard perception and enhancing experience because their pupils already have a thorough understanding of the road environment and a healthy respect for other road users??!!!

Young Driver Training (2)

- Wouldn't it be amazing if the supervisory drivers also had that same knowledge, understanding and respect, and their young people had experienced 17 years of **good** subliminal learning and picked up really **good** attitudes?
- Wouldn't it be **a job well done** if proper road safety education reduced the injuries and fatalities on our roads?

What do we need to change?

- DfT and DfES need to be 'in conversation' with each other and not just paying lip-service to 'joined up thinking' and 'working in partnership'
- Schools need to be committed to road safety at all levels
- Road safety professionals need to be sharing their knowledge and facilitating others
- Parents need to be demonstrating good driving practice and attitudes at all times

PINK FLUFFY CLOUDS?

- Well, maybe!
- I'm forever the optimist!
- But a robust road safety education can't do any harm! It'll either have no effect OR more likely **SOME effect!**

Road Safety in the Curriculum

- I have developed a system for helping schools write their own road safety policy, identify their safe practices and any gaps, and devise a SMART road safety development plan that can be tracked by staff, governing body and their local road safety team

Road Safety in the Curriculum (2)

- There is a comprehensive curriculum plan
- There are further units for pre-driver and post-test driver education in the 6th form (Yrs 12/13)
- There is INSET training for teaching staff
- It is bespoke and flexible for each school/college and it complements all existing schemes

Road Safety in the Curriculum

(3)

- I've tried it and it works! It really does fit into the curriculum, in Pre-school, Primary and Secondary education
- Schools welcome it!
- Schools that have tried the system have won road safety awards

While we are waiting.....

- I've waited 20 years already!
- How many young people have died in that time?
- **It's time we grasped the nettle – we might just save a few lives! And that's what we are here for, isn't it?**

For further information:

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