



Junior Road Safety Officers



Helper's Guide

Transport Strategy Team
Reviewed August 2016

Welcome

Thank you for your interest in the Junior Road Safety Officer (JRSO) scheme. This initiative gives pupils the opportunity to lead on promoting road safety and sustainable travel to their school communities in a fun way, while getting serious messages across.

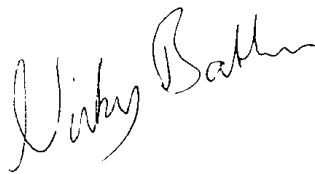
At present, over 100 schools across the County are involved in the JRSO scheme. The JRSOs help to develop and maintain active and successful school travel plans.

This *Helper's Guide* includes information about the scheme, the role of the 'Helper', tips on giving guidance to your JRSOs and details of where to get more help if you need it.

Please complete and return the 'Registration Form' with contact details of the school's Helper and their JRSOs so that we know where to send badges, regular updates and general information to support you and your JRSOs.

You can download themed Bulletins from our website www.schooltravelplanning.com

I look forward to working with you,



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For more information on the JRSO scheme
check out our website:

www.schooltravelplanning.com

click on - Initiatives
then - Junior Road Safety Officers

1. What are Junior Road Safety Officers?

Schools usually appoint a couple of JRSOs from Years Five or Six. Their role is to spread road safety and sustainable travel messages to their school community by:

- Giving talks at assemblies on topics linking to school travel planning. They can download bulletins from the website.
- Maintaining a notice board that shows relevant information and posters and make sure that it is kept up to date.
- Running competitions to support a school travel plan and sustainable travel initiatives.

Each JRSO receives a special badge so that they can be identified and you can download a certificate to present to them.

2. What is the Helper's role?

A teacher, member of the school community or STP working group acts as a guide to offer advice and support to the JRSOs.

Once the JRSO has been recruited you can work through the Kids' Pack with them, help develop ideas and give practical support and encouragement.

The ideas and activities in the Kids' Pack give a good starting point, but the scheme is really flexible. Encourage them to come up with their own ideas that might be more suitable for your school.

Meet your JRSOs regularly and set tasks or check that they have realistic deadlines for themselves.

3. What is included in the Kids' Pack?

The pack has been produced to help the JRSOs undertake their role within the school.

It includes links to other website and initiatives and suggestions for activities and competitions.

The Kids' Pack, certificates and bulletins can be downloaded from our website.

JRSO pack

JRSO packs can be downloaded from our website:

www.schooltravelplanning.com

click on - **Initiatives**
then - **Junior Road Safety Officers**

3. How can I recruit JRSOs?

We suggest you have at least two JRSOs from Years Five and/or Six. There are many ways you can choose your JRSOs, it is up to you how you do it!

- Ask pupils to complete application forms (an example is included in your Helper's Guide) and make your selection based on their answers.
- Conduct interviews to discover budding JRSOs. You could involve 'retiring' JRSOs
- Ask students to nominate their representatives.
- Your JRSOs may come from your school council.
- As the scheme develops in your school, your JRSOs may wish to create their own application form.

Have an informal talk with candidates before deciding who will take on the role, check they understand the job and that they really want to do it.

Once you have recruited your JRSOs you need to register them so that we can send you their badges. You will also need to download a Kids' Pack.

4. How do I support my JRSOs?

Assembly or classroom talks

The Kids' Pack encourages JRSOs to give talks in both school assemblies and the classroom – perhaps once a month, or at least every half term.

We suggest they base this around the theme of bulletins or a curriculum topic. Your JRSOs may choose their own topic or one based on an activity taking place in school.

Encourage them to be creative. They could ask questions, get other students to help or make songs and plays. Offer them a chance to practice with you first. You could consider inviting guest speakers to support your JRSOs, like your school crossing patroller or police community safety officer.

Running Competitions

Competitions are a great way to get people interested in active and sustainable travel and they can involve the whole school, not just Years Five and Six.

Your JRSOs may need help picking a theme. They can use their bulletins, websites or, for extra impact, you could suggest tying it in with an assembly or class talk the JRSOs are giving. You may also need to help them choose a time and decide on a format.

The worksheets in the Kids' Pack could be photocopied for use as competitions, or your JRSO could come up with brand new ones. Remember that the activities and suggestions provided are only a guide and the JRSOs own ideas may be more relevant for your school.

To judge entries, JRSOs could enlist the help of you, their headteacher or other appropriate judge. There is a winner's certificate to photocopy or you can print it from our website:

Or, if they are keen, JRSOs can make their own.

You could also help out with finding prizes. Winners can be announced in assembly and winning entries posted around the school.

Winner's certificates can be downloaded:
www.schooltravelplanning.com

click on - Initiatives
then - Junior Road Safety Officers



Putting up posters

Why not encourage JRSOs to put posters up around the school reminding everyone to stay safe? Posters will be sent out at intervals throughout the year but, if there aren't any, perhaps they would like to make their own road safety posters and hold poster competitions. Remind them to make sure the posters are bright and clear with a simple message to attract attention.

There's a wide range of posters available on our website
<http://schooltravelplanning.com/schools/initiatives/publicity/>

Walk and Bike to School

They can help to come with ideas for national Walk and Bike to School Weeks. And will be able to help out if you are planning to run other road safety and school travel events in the school – Valentine's Day, Healthy Hearts; Red Nose, do something funny for money, coming to school in your pyjamas; Easter Bonnet parade to school.

5. Who can help the JRSOs?

PCSO

Police Community Support Officers are members of support staff employed, directed and managed by their Police Force. They will work to complement and support regular police officers, providing a visible and accessible uniformed presence to improve the quality of life in the community and offer greater public reassurance.

School Travel Plan working group

Working together with the School Travel Planning Team to reduce unnecessary car trips to school and encourage parents, pupils, teachers and staff to travel to and from school in safer, healthier and more sustainable ways.

School Crossing Patrollers

School Crossing Patrollers are valued members of the community and can be the eyes and ears outside the school gate. A patroller can highlight problems on the journey in to or out of school that might be addressed by JRSOs or the School Travel Plan Working Group.

6. Other initiatives that can help...

Zig Zag Banners

School Keep Clear markings are placed at sites where parked vehicles are a hazard to children. The markings are a reminder not to park at the school entrance. Unfortunately, some schools do suffer from inconsiderate parking outside the school gates on the yellow Keep Clear Zig Zag markings.

To support school communities, the School Travel Planning team manages the School Keep Clear Zig Zag banner initiative that helps target bad parking outside school gates.

The Zig Zag banners' initiative involves the use of three colour-coded banners - green, amber and red - placed at school gates. The banners are designed to inform and educate parents on the dangers of parking on Zig Zag markings. The three banners work like a traffic light system and are available to schools for half a term.

Pupil Traffic Warden Scheme

This is run alongside the JRSO role giving them the opportunity to get involved with patrolling outside their schools with Police Community Support Officers. They help to stop people parking on pavements, yellow lines, dropped kerbs and zigzag markings by asking parents to move to safer places and park in a more considerate way.

Crocodiles and Alligators

A crocodile trail is another name for a walking bus. Trained adults walk children to school in a group, picking up other children on the way. The children have to be trained to Level 1 in Footsteps and they wear fluorescent tabards or armbands so that they can be seen by traffic.

An alligator trail is a grown up crocodile trail. It works in exactly the same way as a crocodile but only children who are in year 3 or above can take part. This means they can walk more quickly and instead of wearing a tabard or armbands the children wear fluorescent caps.

Make the Commitment

This campaign aims to tackle the problems caused by inappropriate and excessive speed in local communities. The campaign asks the motorist to make a personal written commitment to drive, or encourage others to drive, at an appropriate speed for the environment and road conditions and always within the legal speed limit; in effect, to practise 'safer speed behaviour'.

Go for Gold

This is Bucks County Council's sustainable travel incentive scheme. Each school decides how the scheme should run but essentially pupils have a card that is stamped every day they travel sustainably to school, usually walking or cycling from the Walking Zone. They receive a prize of a free activity each time they complete a card – a list is available from the School Travel Plan Team.

JRSOs can help to set up and support the Go for Gold scheme. They can recruit 'stampers' and organise a rota to ensure cards can be stamped every day. They could also source prizes from local companies – ie, sports centre, tennis club, etc.

7. Competitions

There are lots of competitions in the JRSO Kids' Pack but you may also wish to:

- Ask children to take part in a quiz. You could ask questions about the Green Cross Code.
- To write a story or poem
- To design a logo or slogan for Road Safety at your school
- To Design a poster – perhaps to encourage pupils to walk to school
- A colouring competition
- A class challenge – to see how many in a class don't come to school by car. Walking, Cycling or Scooting to school is much better for the environment. Sometimes children live too far to walk or cycle all the way to school, but they could always think about walking part of the way, or perhaps travel by bus.

Ideas for prizes

You will need to decide who is going to judge the competition. You may wish to invite someone from outside of the school to judge the competition.

You will need to think about the prizes you could give. Prizes don't have to be big. Your prize does not have to be a 'thing'; it could be something 'to do'. For example, if you were to have a class competition, the winning class could have extra play time, or they could wear their own clothes or fancy dress, to school one day.

Your school might donate a prize. Or you could ask a local shop (such as your local bike shop) to donate something and you could ask the owner of the shop to judge the prize.

Certificate

A copy of a certificate for competition winners can be downloaded from the school travel planning website.

There is also a copy of this Certificate in the Kids' Pack. You may wish to copy on to card and present to pupils at your school who have done something special to support road safety and sustainable travel.

For further information please contact the School Travel Planning Team

www.schooltravelplanning.com

schooltravelplanning@buckscc.gov.uk

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