



Cornwall Fire, Rescue and Community Safety Service

Junior Safety Officer





Introduction

In 2013 we made a commitment, in consultation with our communities, to five long term priorities to achieve our mission “Working together to make Cornwall safer” and we believe that these are critical and will remain for the next three years. Through reviewing our influences and understanding our risks we have identified a number of objectives and outcomes against our priorities to determine what we want to achieve over the next three years and will form our delivery plan. These align to Cornwall Councils strategy to ensure we are delivering against the wider aims of the Council.

Our priorities:

Cornwall Council's Strategic Theme How we align to the Council's Strategy	Health, Safety and Wellbeing / Community Engagement, Equality and Diversity (CEED)	Our Priorities	Our Objectives What we want to do at a high level	Our Outcomes What we aim to achieve
Healthier and Safe Communities Engaging with our Communities		Prevent To improve the health, safety and wellbeing of people and places most at risk	To deliver targeted services based on risk and vulnerability, working in collaboration with others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved safety of individuals, families and communities Improved health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities
Healthier and Safe Communities Driving the economy Engaging with our Communities		Protect To protect businesses, people, the local economy and environment	To engage with, educate and support businesses, partners and communities to promote good practice To regulate and enforce legislation for commercial and public premises to protect people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Places are better protected reducing the cost to the local economy and environment Improved public safety
Healthier and Safe Communities Being efficient, effective and innovative Engaging with our Communities		Respond To deliver an effective and efficient emergency response and support recovery	To ensure we have the right resources in the right place at the right time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintained capability to provide an effective response to emergencies and people in crisis Reduced impact during and after emergency incidents on individuals, families, communities and environment Maintained our capability to respond to large scale, and specialist local, regional or national incidents
Ambitious Cornwall Engaging with our Communities Partners working together Driving the economy Being efficient, effective and innovative		Innovate Thinking and working differently to make the best use of all resources	Continue to develop opportunities for greater collaboration of blue light services Maximise opportunities for greater collaboration with public, private and community organisations Develop alternative funding and cost recovery opportunities Develop technical solutions to meet the future needs of the service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased collaboration with other blue light services Increased collaboration with public, private and community organisations Recognised as a valued contributor to strategic partnerships Increased cost recovery Improved user satisfaction in the use of IT Improved effectiveness through the use of IT
Partners working together Being efficient, effective and innovative		Perform Be a high performing organisation	To improve the understanding of the needs of individuals, families, businesses and communities to target risk Ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of our people Use our resources effectively to target risk Be known as a high performing organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence based practice is embedded across the service Improved health of our workforce Improved safety of our workforce Improved wellbeing of our workforce Budget delivered on target Improved professional competence of our workforce Trusted and inclusive organisation that people want to work with and for Compliant and effective in the way we manage information

Introduction

Welcome to the Junior Safety Officer Programme, we hope that this resource will inspire and guide you in promoting safety within your school and community.

We are delighted to bring you both road and fire safety in one user friendly resource, with lots of ideas to start you off on your creative journey to becoming a safety ambassador for your school.

Your role as Junior Safety Officer (JSO) is to promote both road and fire safety within your school and community. In Cornwall, the County Councils Road Safety Team and Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service, Fire Prevention team are now working together in one big team and therefore have produced this resource with this in mind.

We have divided the resource into four easy sections. Following this introductory page there is an index to help you navigate your way through each section.

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About the scheme

The aim of the Junior Safety Officers (JSO) scheme is to empower children with the knowledge and awareness of road and fire safety issues. This understanding will then give them the confidence to pass on this guidance and information to the rest of the school and community; whilst maintaining links with the prevention and road safety team. Together we are working towards making Cornwall a safer place for everyone.

Your school is encouraged to assemble a JSO team that includes children from Year 5 and Year 6. Children from Year 6 will be initially required to take part for a period of one year; and to help continuity of the scheme, children from Year 5 are encouraged to take part for two years. This will help to ensure a smooth running of the scheme from each academic year to the next.

The scheme links to Citizenship which encourages pupils to take responsibility for their own learning and decision-making. Use the registration form to join the scheme.

It is important that a member of the school staff supports the JSO team on a regular basis; this can be a class teacher or classroom assistant. If you have, any questions or queries contact a member of the prevention team.



Supporting your JSO's

When you have assembled your team, it is up to you as to how much time and effort you are able to give your JSO team. We would recommend that you meet with them at least once every half term to discuss their progress and help them achieve their tasks, more often if possible.

During your meetings, you should aim to:

- ❖ Set clear, easily achievable tasks;
- ❖ Ensure that the children have the resources required to complete the task;
- ❖ Set a date for completion;
- ❖ Give lots of encouragement and support;
- ❖ Help them to access the internet for research and to see what other Fire and Rescue Services are doing for road and fire safety.

'Creative thinking!' to help get your message across

- ❖ Fashion assemblies/shows
- ❖ Quiz assemblies/shows
- ❖ JSO Newsletters
- ❖ Notice board – updates
- ❖ Tip of the week
- ❖ Themed displays
- ❖ School website competitions etc
- ❖ Colouring / poster competitions
- ❖ Community safety awareness



Campaigns and Events

The best way to raise awareness of road and fire safety is to run campaigns, events and competitions. Research other road safety projects to see what others are doing and also look out for national fire safety campaigns on the CFOA website.

An effective campaign/event is all about the support and planning of the event. Using different mediums and medias to promote the event and post event to let everyone know your successes.

We would like to be informed termly, if possible, of all the activities that you do throughout the year and will provide an online form that you can fill in and submit to us.

Why not 'like' us on our twitter and facebook pages and send us pictures, it's another great way of keeping informed of what road and fire campaigns are going on in the Fire and Rescue Service. Find out when we are holding open days, community days etc.

www.facebook.com/cornwallfrs

<https://twitter.com/cornwallfrs>



Section Two



Congratulations and Welcome

Congratulations on becoming a Junior Safety Officer (JSO) for your school!

Over the academic year it will be the job of the JSO to work with your tutor/mentor in raising awareness of road and fire safety issues and the potential risks that face us all each year.

In this resource, you will find the basic topics of road and fire safety that we would like you to concentrate on. However, you may have specific issues facing your community and school which you as a team may want to tackle.

For example

Road Safety - Parents/carers parking on the yellow zig zag lines which in turn endangers pedestrians entering and leaving the school premises. There is an accompanying pdf with information on safety at the school gate.

Fire safety – Elderly relatives who do not have smoke alarms in their home, or perhaps there has been an incident in the area that you wish to provide reassurance by raising awareness of fire safety within the school.

Always remember, you have people around you to support you and we are only an email or phone call away. Why not contact your local community fire station and talk to the crew, they may be able to support you with events or mentoring.



Recruiting new JSO's

As a Junior Safety Officer (JSO), and with the help of your teacher, you may be able to help to select next year's JSO's. There are several different ways of doing this:

By Application

- ❖ There is an application form on line which you can download and give out to pupils that are interested. You might want to hand some out in each class or during an assembly.
- ❖ Share records of the things you have done over the previous year with potential candidates and tell them which bits you enjoyed.
- ❖ When you have the completed application forms, you can select those who gave the best answers, or you can choose to interview children with help from your teacher.

By Election

- ❖ Elections are another way you can select JSO's. Pupils who put their name forward can then be selected by their classmates in a ballot.
- ❖ You could ask candidates to write a piece of work about themselves; why they think they would make a good candidate.

By Selection

- ❖ You could ask your teacher to select who they think would be most suitable for the job.



Assemblies – 4p’s Guide

There are lots of topics within road and fire safety throughout the year that you can cover, consider seasonal or national projects connected to the different seasons. You may be able to pick up on local news events etc.; but whatever you chose; the 4 P’s guide will really help you in getting ready for an assembly.

Permission

Always ask permission from your class teacher or head teacher to take part in an assembly, as they may be able to help you.

Plan

Always work out a plan for your assembly. You may decide to involve your JSO team to discuss whether you want to do a talk, a short play, or a rap, song or poem, or fashion show or some ideas of your own.

Prepare

Give yourself plenty of time to prepare your assembly. Make a checklist of things to do. You may decide a meeting with your team is appropriate. Sort out any props you may need and enlist any helpers you may need to make posters, banners, etc. You may be able to do one full assembly to the whole school or it may be more practical to have two assemblies: one for the infants and one for the juniors.

Practise

Give yourself plenty of time to practise your assembly. Try to get some time to get together with your team and go through the material you have prepared.



Campaigns

A campaign is a project with many steps that helps to advertise an idea. The campaign in your school will involve tackling an important road or fire safety issue and getting it noticed by as many people as possible.

You can make the campaign large or small!

Here are some steps you might take when running a campaign:

- ❖ Meet with your team and decide on a topic
- ❖ Discuss your ideas with the JSO support teacher
- ❖ Consider outside organisations that may be able to support you
- ❖ Contact your local community fire station
- ❖ Decide on activities and target age groups during your campaign
- ❖ Decide how to monitor your campaign's success
- ❖ Add it to your school webpage or social media pages
- ❖ Decide how to inform pupils, teachers and the community about the activity you are planning
- ❖ Decide how the activities will be publicised and to whom
- ❖ Decide how you will feed back the success of the campaign to your school
- ❖ Most importantly, enjoy your campaign!

Remember:

Inform the prevention and road safety team about your campaign by emailing a report form after the event.

prevention@fire.cornwall.gov.uk



Use the following structure to help develop your activities effectively.

Investigate

Where to start – in order to run a campaign you need to investigate the current attitudes and practices already taking place. This could involve monitoring and interviewing.

Research

When researching a topic you will need to take different people's views into account. If you decide to research modes of transport you will also need to consider what days these are used and consider the journey to and from school.

Summarise

Once you have all your research it would be useful to display it in a list, graph or bar chart so it can be clearly understood by children and teachers.

Write a brief summary of your findings.

Inform & publicise

After you have summarised your research it is important to share your findings with the whole school and those who were involved in the campaign. Include it in the school newsletter, website and school social media sites.

Ask your teacher for help, they may give you some ideas on how to set out your display and information.

Remember: Always have your work checked by your teacher and head teacher before you publicise it



Notice Boards

Ask your teacher if you can have a notice board for the Junior Safety Officers to display information, posters, notices and competitions.

Location – locate it where you will get the most interest from pupils, teachers and parents/carers

JSO Team – Include team / individual photos and also the support teachers, don't forget to add your names so the rest of the school know who you are and what your role is

Events Safety Calendar – add in campaigns of interest, road safety week, fire safety week, seasonal campaigns and national campaigns. Make it clear which are for interest and which ones you will be covering.

Suggestion Box – Great idea to help support you with ideas and of course what other pupils would like to see or find out about.

Themes – A fresh and updated board is an interesting board, overcrowding can lead to confusion.

Consistent – you may want to have areas of consistency for instance Tip of the week/month/term. Remains in the same place but information changes

Remember,

**Keep it simple, bright and well
set out.**



JSO-RS

Junior Safety Officer – Road Safety



Be Safe, Be Seen

This section is about keeping yourself safe by being seen. Children should be aware of the importance of being seen by other road users; what materials and colours are best to wear in order to be seen.

Why not organise one of our 'twilight trails' at school, there is an accompanying toolkit to support you with this.

Remember: Fluorescent by day - Reflective by night.

Be Bright – Be Safe – Be Seen



Themes

This would be a good theme for the autumn and winter terms, especially for you to be very creative on your notice board. Remember to keep a record of all the work you do using the record sheet.

Materials specific to being bright being seen are fluorescent and reflective, you may have seen different workman, emergency services and school crossing patrols wearing these sorts of clothing.

Fluorescent – Is yellow in colour and works well in the daytime because it reacts with the ultra-violet rays in sunlight which make it stand out.

Reflective – Is silver in colour and works well in the dark because its special surface reflects the light of the car headlights straight back to the driver.

Some materials combine fluorescent and reflective elements so they help you to be seen day and night. If you do not have anything fluorescent or reflective, wear something bright or light coloured.

You can see from this picture the dangers of wearing dark clothing at dusk and at night. It is difficult for drivers to spot pedestrians at roadside or when crossing the road. Drivers also need to be able to see your pets if you are out walking them in the dark/dusk.



Cycling

This section on cycling covers top tips for safer cycling and also choosing the correct helmets.

The important thing to remember is to maintain your bike and make sure that it is roadworthy. The Highway Code's '**Rules for Cyclists**' gives you some pointers as to what condition your bike is expected to be in.

There are useful bikeability courses in Cornwall, to find out where to go, www.bikeability.org.uk where you can search for a local bikeability provider.

Sustrans is a national charity which is dedicated to encouraging more people to cycle. They offer advice on getting more people cycling and your local cycle routes.



Top tips for safer cycling

- ❖ Choose your route.
- ❖ Wear a helmet at all times when cycling.
- ❖ Get cycle training.
- ❖ Check your brakes and tyres before setting off.
- ❖ Use cycle routes where available.
- ❖ Obey all traffic light signals and road signs.
- ❖ Obey all signals made by Police Officers, Traffic Wardens or School Crossing Patrols.
- ❖ Do not hold on to another vehicle or cyclist.
- ❖ Never lead an animal while cycling.
- ❖ Make sure other road users can see you.
- ❖ Wear something reflective in the dark and fluorescent in the daytime.
- ❖ It is an offence to cycle at night without a white front light, a red back light and also a rear red reflector.
- ❖ Always make sure lights are clean and in working order.
- ❖ You should never wear a personal stereo or use a mobile phone while cycling.
- ❖ Always park your bicycle thoughtfully.



Choosing the correct helmet

- ❖ For the best advice of how to wear your helmet correctly, always refer to the manufacturer's instructions provided. The shopkeeper will help you to fit it if you ask.
- ❖ Wearing a cycle helmet reduces the risk of receiving head injuries in a collision.
- ❖ The helmet must fit correctly; always try a helmet on before you buy it.
- ❖ Check to see if your cycle helmet meets one of the following standards: EN 1078, SNELL B95, ANSI or ASTM.
- ❖ If the cycle helmet does not meet any of these standards, there is a chance that it may provide very little protection in the event of a collision.
- ❖ Make sure the cycle helmet fits snugly and securely, and the straps are easy to do up and adjust. The cycle helmet must not obstruct your vision or cover your ears.
- ❖ Never add any extra stickers to your cycle helmet. Some types of glue used in stickers can affect the strength of the cycle helmet's surface. Only decorate your cycle helmet with stickers that come supplied.

Important

- ❖ The cycle helmet must be worn so that it rests level on your head – just above your eyebrows.
- ❖ When the straps are fastened they should be done up so they are equally tight and free from slack.
- ❖ To test that the straps are tightened securely you should be able to insert two fingers between the straps and your chin.



Pedestrian

This section of pedestrian safety we would like you to encourage, promote the healthy option of walking, and work towards achieving the following: -

- ❖ Encourage more children to walk to school
- ❖ Promote safe pedestrian strategies
- ❖ Promote the healthy benefits of walking
- ❖ Encourage more adults to walk to school
- ❖ Appropriate use of dropping off zones
- ❖ Awareness of distractions such as mobile devices



Walking to school

Walking to school is not only good for you but also good for the environment! Walking to school helps to keep you fit and healthy. Here are some other good reasons to walk to school:

- ❖ Walking to school gives you extra time to talk with friends.
- ❖ It wakes you up in the morning and gets you ready to learn at school!
- ❖ It gives you the opportunity of taking a good look at your local area on the way to school.
- ❖ It's fun!
- ❖ It's a good way of spending time with your parents or carers and having a chat as you walk.
- ❖ More people walking mean fewer cars on the street and around the school.
- ❖ Fewer cars on the street mean safer roads and cleaner air.
- ❖ The more practice you get walking in your area and dealing with different situations the safer you become – practice makes perfect!



Using a travel survey

If you want to encourage more children to walk to school you, need to find out how many children are walking to school at the moment. The travel survey form will help you collect this information. It will also tell you what might be putting some children off walking to school. This is useful to know if you wish to increase walking activities at your school.

The information collected from your survey could be displayed on the JSO notice board. Pie charts and bar charts look good when you want to display results. You will find it interesting comparing results after you have run some activities or a campaign to see if people's attitudes have changed or not.

It may also be a good idea to display some positive quotes from children/ teachers/ parents that say what they most enjoy about walking to school.

You could do a people count, before school starts, in the morning to see how many people are walking and from which direction. If your school does not yet have a walking bus perhaps, you could campaign to get one started.

There are many ways to collect information, so use your imagination and think of how you can make a difference in your school.

Good Luck!



Making your efforts count!

If you want to make a difference and encourage more children to walk to school you may need to start a campaign. This section gives lots of ideas about who to write to make sure your message is heard!

Promoting the benefits of walking within your school and the environment can be challenging. You may need to contact a variety of people for their support and to promote these benefits along with how you intend to achieve them.

For example, if your travel survey results show that lots of people are put off walking because of bad weather, or are put off cycling to school because there is no cycle storage at your school you will need to tell people who might be able to help.

You might want to set up a Walking Bus (a group of walkers who travel to school safely by foot each day with the help of adult volunteers) or you may have other ideas to get more people walking!

Meet with your Head Teacher with the results of the survey and how you would like to progress with the end aim of benefiting the school and the local community. They will then be able to support, guide and help you get others on board with your ideas. Especially the Governors at your school, as they make decisions about how the school is run and what gets done

Healthy Schools is a scheme your school might already be involved with. The Healthy School Team offer advice about improving your health through regular exercise, good diet and safety issues.

<http://www.cornwallhealthyschools.org/contact/>



Good publicity

To encourage more children to walk to school they need to know how good walking can be! Below are some ideas of how you can promote the benefits in your school. I'm sure you will have lots more!

- ❖ Why not make some persuasive posters to put around school
- ❖ You could arrange to do an assembly with some friends about the benefits of walking to school, and road safety.
- ❖ How about distributing leaflets to parents, to help raise awareness of walking, or encourage them to 'Park and Stride'?
- ❖ Could you run a competition in school to help promote more walking?
- ❖ How about writing to your local newspaper and let them know what you're doing – you might even get your photo in print!

For advice and support, contact the Prevention and Road Safety team:

prevention@fire.cornwall.gov.uk



Walking to school diary

Sometimes it is not possible to walk to school and home again every day, but you may be able to walk to school at least one day a week.

This will help to keep you fit, it also stops some of the pollution that travelling to school by car produces.

You could choose to walk to school every Wednesday and adopt the WOW initiative (Walk on Wednesday). This will improve your health and the environment

Whichever day or days you choose to walk to or from school don't forget to fill in your WOW diary.

Adopt the 'Park and Stride' scheme. This is simply encouraging parents/ carers to park that little bit further away from the school in suitable areas and walk the rest of the way. This will help to minimise the volume of traffic in and around the school gates at those key times of the day.



Seatbelts

This section has some general information for you to display on your notice board.

- ❖ For your own safety and that of others, the law requires you to use a seatbelt whenever possible, and if you measure less than 135cm (about 4'5") you must use an appropriate seat or booster cushion.
- ❖ Everyone knows they should wear a seatbelt in the front seat, but many people still don't realise how dangerous it is not to wear a seatbelt in the back seats.
- ❖ In a crash at 30mph, if you are not wearing a seatbelt, you will hit the front seat and anyone in it with a force of between 30 to 40 times your own body weight. Such an impact could easily result in death or serious injury to both you and the front seat passenger or driver.
- ❖ Wearing a seatbelt not only makes sense from a safety point of view, It is also a legal requirement to use a seatbelt in a car where one is fitted.

There are varieties of leaflets available for this campaign, contact us if you require any

We also have a 'Seatbelt Sheriff scheme' which is designed to encourage children to wear their seatbelt. The aim of the scheme is to empower the children to feel able to remind other people to wear their seatbelt on every journey. There is an accompanying pdf with these details available.



Seatbelts and the law

Children in Cars - Travelling as a passenger in a car is one of the main ways that children under 12 years old get about. Most of their journeys are completed safely. Unfortunately, some are not.

Who, by law, must wear a seatbelt?

	FRONT SEAT	REAR SEAT	WHO IS RESPONSIBLE
Driver	Seat belt must be worn		Driver
Child up to 3 years old.	Correct child restraint must be used.	Correct child restraint must be used. If one is not available in a taxi, child may travel unrestrained.	Driver
Child from 3rd birthday up to 135cms in height (approx. 4'5") or 12th birthday whichever they reach first.	Correct child restraint must be used.	Where seat belts are fitted, the correct child restraint must be used. Use the adult seat belt if the correct child restraint is not available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ in a taxi; ❖ for a short distance; ❖ for reason of unexpected necessity; ❖ two occupied child restraints prevent fitment of a third. Children who are 3 years old and over may travel unrestrained in the rear seat of a vehicle if seat belts are not available.	Driver
Child over 1.35 metres (approx. 4' 5") or 12 or 13 years old.	Seat belt must be worn if available.	Seat belt must be worn if available.	Driver
Adult passengers (14 years old and over).	Seat belt must be worn if available.	Seat belt must be worn if available.	Passenger



Additional child seat and seatbelt regulations

- ❖ Children up to the age of 12 or 135cm tall still need car seats. The reason for this is that adult seat belts do not fit children properly and are likely to put them at a higher risk of injury.
- ❖ Children must be secured in the car seat on every journey;
- ❖ It is the child's weight and height that is the determining factor in child car seat choice.

Exemptions

- ❖ A short and occasional journey (unplanned or emergencies) If the appropriate child seat is not available, a child aged 3 years or older may travel in a rear seat using an adult seatbelt.
- ❖ Where two occupied child seats in the rear prevent the fitment of a third child seat. Three seats do not always fit so a third must use an adult belt. (This does not apply to children under 3 years old).
- ❖ In a licensed taxi or private hire vehicle if the right child restraint is not available.



In car safety

- ❖ Always get in and out of the car from the side farthest away from the traffic – this is usually the side next to the pavement or the hedge.
- ❖ Make sure the diagonal strap of your seat belt rests on your shoulder – not on your neck!
- ❖ Always wear a seatbelt while travelling in a car.
- ❖ Always sit on a booster seat if you are under 135cm in height.
- ❖ Do not distract the driver – this could cause a crash.
- ❖ If a seat belt or child seat has been involved in a crash. It must be replaced – even if it looks alright.
- ❖ Do not use a second-hand car seat unless you have all the fitting instructions and you know it has never been involved in a collision.
- ❖ Never travel in the luggage area of an estate car - it has been designed to crumple in a collision.
- ❖ Make sure loose objects are secure in the boot of the car – even small items can fly about and cause injury if the car is in a collision.
- ❖ Never put your head or arm out of the car window or sunroof.
- ❖ Never share a seat belt with another person or travel on someone's lap.



In car safety - distractions

Drivers are constantly faced with being distracted by rear-seated passengers whilst driving. These distractions can be caused by children who are unaware that they may be creating a problem for the driver, which can lead to a road traffic collision.

Why not highlight these issues in your campaign and mention how children should behave while seated in the back of the car.

Some common distractions drivers are faced with:

- ❖ Children shouting at each other in the back seats;
- ❖ Children calling for the driver's attention;
- ❖ Children poking or prodding the driver;
- ❖ Children fighting in the back seat;
- ❖ Children throwing objects around the car;
- ❖ Children removing seatbelts whilst car is moving
- ❖ Children obstructing the back view from the driver
- ❖ Children waving objects around in the back seat

Remember:

Litter such as empty bottles or plastic wrappers that are left on the car floor behind the driver's seat could roll or slide to the front of the car and become a danger to the driver.

Litter may possibly obstruct the driver's feet or the control pedals and prevent the driver from being able to stop the car in an emergency.



JSO-FS

Junior Safety Officer – Fire Safety



Early Years Resource

We already have a resource for the Early Years Foundation stages called elfs (early learning fire safety) this resource is available for loan from your nearest Community Fire Station.

Details of which can be found at www.cornwall.gov.uk/elfs

When planning your events in school we have an interactive website for Key Stage 1 pupils, with plenty of fun and games and printable pages in all of the safety messages that are contained in this first section. There is also a dedicated elfs character to specific messages that you want to promote.

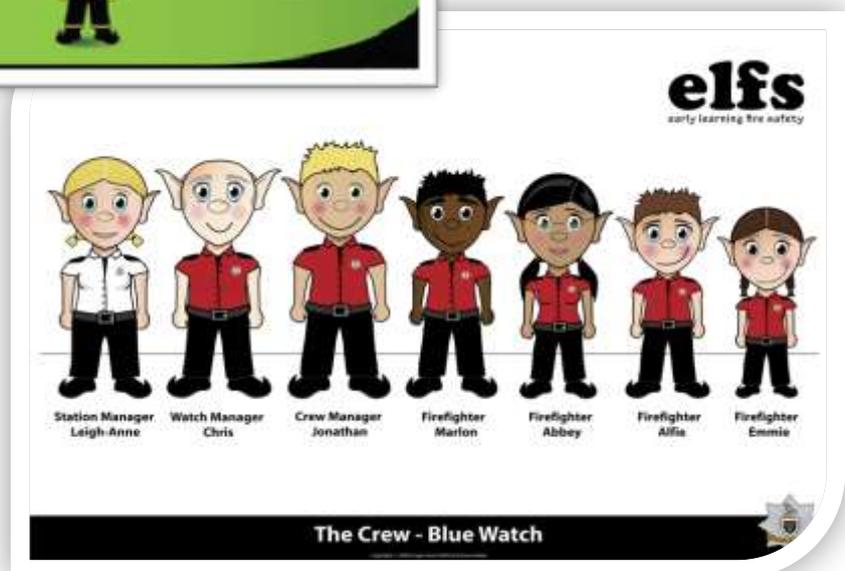
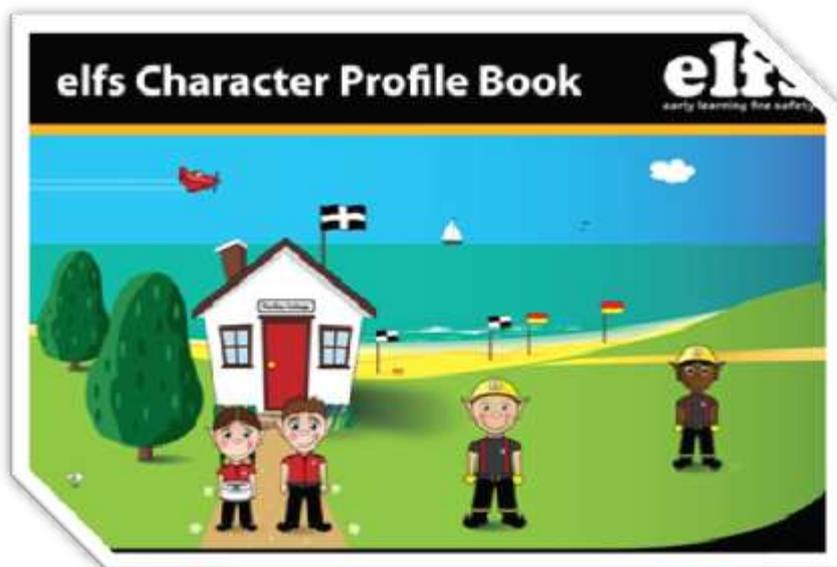
SAFETY MESSAGE	elfs CHARACTER
Road Safety	Station Manager Leigh-Anne
Fire Escape Plans	Watch Manager Chris
Stop, Drop and Roll	Crew Manager Jonathan
Good and Bad Fires	Fire Fighter Marlon
Hot & Cold	Fire Fighter Abbey
Matches and Lighters	Fire Fighter Alfie
Smoke Alarms	Fire Fighter Emmie



elfs Character Profile Books

We also provided your school with a free copy of the elfs Character Profile Book. If you are unable to locate your schools copy then contact the Fire Prevention Team and we will try our best to accommodate you should we have stock left.

This resource will give you lots of information and guidance on sharing fire safety information with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) children



Dangers of matches and lighters

Matches and lighters are common and can be found in almost every home in the UK. Matches, lighters and other heat sources are the leading cause of fire deaths among children. Never underestimate a child's curiosity about fire, or their ability to strike matches or start a fire.

Young children tend to copy and imitate those around them, so should they see their parents using matches or lighters to light the fire, or older siblings light the cooker or candles at home, they may think that this is ok for them to try it.

It is important for young children to understand that they should never play with matches or lighters. Only adults should use them; if they see or find any, they should tell a grown up straightaway.

Sometimes adults get a little forgetful and do not put away their lighter or matches after smoking or cooking.

Information sharing with parents is absolutely crucial when it comes to messages relating to fire safety but in particular, matches and lighters.



Stop, Drop and Roll

In the event that a person's clothes catch on fire, it is important to stand still and not panic, fires spread quickly so you need to act immediately.

STOP – immediately keep still, and do not run around. Running around will fan the flames and make them burn faster, it could also hamper those attempting to put the fire out.

DROP – lying down makes it harder for the fire to spread and reduces the risk of flames spreading onto the face and head – flames burn upwards.

ROLL – rolling sideways from one side to the other will put the fire out, lie out like a pointy pencil, with your hands above your head.



Smoke Alarms

Safety reminders

- ❖ You need a working smoke alarm on every floor of your home, upstairs as well as downstairs, to warn you quickly if a fire starts.
- ❖ Test your smoke alarms every week to check that they're working.
- ❖ If the smoke alarm by your kitchen keeps going off when you're cooking, don't remove the batteries! Move the alarm further away from the kitchen door, or change it for one with a silencer button or a 'toast-proof' one.
- ❖ Plan how your family will escape if a fire breaks out, then practice the plan together.

Maintaining your smoke alarm



- ❖ Test your smoke alarm once a week, by pressing the button until the alarm sounds.
- ❖ Change the battery every year (unless it is a ten-year battery).
- ❖ Vacuum your alarm to get rid of the dust, twice a year.
- ❖ Replace the whole unit every ten years.



Carbon Monoxide

Carbon Monoxide is also known as the silent killer. Your body doesn't know the difference between oxygen and carbon monoxide, so when you breathe in your lungs don't know that there is anything wrong.

Carbon monoxide is invisible, you cannot see it, smell it or taste it, the only way to detect it is by having a carbon monoxide detector.

Even your pets can be affected by carbon monoxide, cats will tend not to want to come into the house whereas dogs may have a sore mouth or throat and may appear very irritable.

Carbon monoxide can be avoided by maintaining appliances that use carbon fuels appropriately.

CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) POISONING



Fire Escape Plans

Help the children to understand the following:

- ❖ Smoke alarms are essential in every home.
- ❖ Smoke alarms should be on every level of your house
- ❖ If they hear the alarm they are to get out of the house, they must not hide as smoke gets everywhere.
- ❖ Smoke is dangerous if it is inhaled.
- ❖ Smoke rises up towards the ceiling.
- ❖ If there is lots of smoke, we get down to the floor where the air is clearer.
- ❖ Close doors at night to help prevent the spread of fire and smoke.
- ❖ Go out of the nearest exit and meet where the family have planned.
- ❖ Once outside, a grown-up will call the fire and rescue service.
- ❖ Once you are out, never go back in for anything. Fire and rescue staff will inform a parent/guardian when it is safe to return inside.





If you would like this information in another format or language, please contact:

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