

Aims: To reduce the risk of serious injury or death for young people as car drivers and passengers.

Objectives: To look at the statistics surrounding road crash casualties in the UK, and the evidence that car drivers and passengers are at greater risk than other types of road user.
Discuss which types of driver are most likely to cause serious crashes. Look at Gloucestershire statistics for car passengers and drivers. Highlight the major causes of injury and death for car occupants.
Discuss the influences on young drivers. Look at the reasons why young passengers increase the accident risk, and the consequences of dangerous driving.
Summarise with key safety statements.

Curriculum Links:

PSHE/ Personal Wellbeing Key Stage 4

Resources:

Computer and screen (with sound) to run PowerPoint presentation.
Internet access to run video clips.
Look on YouTube under “Road Safety” and find “Barbara Pearce” and “Don’t text and drive” or other suitable clips on theme of Young Driver and Passenger Safety.

Lesson duration: 50 minutes total

Introduction: (10 mins)

Explain the facts about how many people are killed and seriously injured on UK roads every day. Ask the students to guess which type of road user has the highest percentage of casualties, then reveal the results (ending with car passenger 20% and car driver 47%).

Main Focus: (35 mins)

Discuss which types of driver are most likely to cause serious crashes (e.g young vs old, male vs female). Look at Gloucestershire statistics for car passenger casualties and then drivers.
Explore the different influences on the way young people drive.
Ask the students which factors they think cause most crashes or lead to worse injuries. Reveal the ‘Fatal Four’ i.e. not wearing a seatbelt; distracting the driver; impairment (i.e. drink and drugs); speeding.
Run the ‘Barbara’ video clip (a woman was very badly injured in a collision in which the other driver had taken drugs and been drinking).
Discuss why it is that young drivers are more likely to crash if they have their mates in the car.
Talk through the consequences of dangerous driving – financial; possible loss of driving licence; conviction; death or serious injury to the driver, passenger or other road user.

Plenary: (5 mins)

Summarise with The Fab Four – how to stay safe in a car – never drive on drink or drugs; stay within speed limits; always use your seat belt; don’t drive distracted.
Finish by showing the ‘Texting’ video clip (a dramatic reconstruction of a collision in which a young driver was distracted by a message on her mobile phone).

Evaluation:

The session usually takes about 50 minutes, which gives enough time for discussion and interaction.