

Key Stage 1 / Key Stage 2 Autumn Assembly

Seeing and Being Seen

Year group: Foundation / Key Stage One / Key Stage Two

Resources: Reflective/fluorescent clothing or materials, light and dark clothing (this can be worn by the children who help with the assembly); torch; School Crossing Patrol if possible; some small objects such as a pencil, plastic cup, button, etc; a child wearing a coat with hood and scarf; ability to darken room

Assembly plan

Aims

To help the children understand the importance of being seen, especially on darker nights and mornings, and to demonstrate how the clothing they wear can affect their safety.

Introduction

Ask the children what they have noticed about their journey to and from school (getting darker in the mornings and the evenings). Soon it will be nearly dark when we come to school and go home. How are children's clothes different from what they wore in the summer? - coats, scarves, hats and hoods etc.

Main presentation

Ask three children to help. Ensure that one is wearing light coloured clothing and one dark coloured clothing, and ask the third child to put on the reflective / fluorescent jacket or hold up the materials. Turn out the lights and ask who is most visible - use the torch to show the reflective material. Why do they think it is harder to see the fluorescent material in the dark? Explain the difference between reflective and fluorescent materials.

If the School Crossing Patrol is available this is a good point for them to come in and show how easily they can be seen in both the day and in the dark.

Talk about why it is important to be visible, and simple ways the children can make themselves easier to be seen.

Now ask the child who is wearing the coat to sit on a chair at the front where everyone can see them. The child needs to put up their hood and wrap their scarf around their neck. Go behind them and drop some of the small objects, asking the child to raise their hand when they can hear you drop something - they should find this difficult with their hood up. Ask why this is important.

Next ask another child to come and help - ask them to stand behind the seated child and slowly walk round to one side, ask the seated child to indicate when they can see them. Repeat the exercise without the coat and hood. The children will see how much more their vision is restricted with a hood and scarf - why is this important?

Reflection

Let the children spend a few minutes thinking about what they could do to make themselves easily seen and thanking the school crossing patrol for helping to keep them safe.

Notes

It is important for children to understand the need to see and be seen and that it is often difficult for drivers to see them. Children need to know how their clothing can affect their visibility to road users. Also how it affects their ability to see and hear what is going on around them. Children (and parents) should not be made to feel inadequate if they haven't got appropriate clothing, but suggestions for improvising could be made, e.g. wearing light colours, carrying something white etc.