



ISSUE 6: Spring Term 2013
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The safe sider

Newsletter of the Safeside Centre



What is Safeside?

Safeside is a state-of-the-art, scenario-based, experiential learning centre that provides an innovative, interactive and enjoyable learning experience, inspiring visitors to think and act safely.

It features a full size indoor street scene including road crossing, bus, train, canal, car, house, police station, court room, dark alleyway, food store and post office. Key issues of fire, road, water, travel and personal safety are covered along with input on vandalism, drugs and alcohol, consequences of crime, environmental responsibilities and what to do in an emergency. Find out about all our programmes by visiting www.safeside.org.uk

We are managed and funded by West Midlands Fire Service and opened in early 2009 alongside the new Fire Service Headquarters on Vauxhall Road, Nechells. During 2011, we welcomed a total of 10,989 visitors. This consisted of 8,219 Key Stage 2 children on Junior Citizen, 1,795 secondary pupils on Lifeskills/NGAGE, 584 adults and children on Special Educational Needs Visits, and 338 on Safestart, our parenting programme.

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Year 3/4 programme

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new for 2013

Your Time; Their Future

Could you become a volunteer visitor guide?

Both Safeside Centres are looking for new volunteers to take small groups of children around our exciting interactive scenarios and teach them about a variety of safety issues.

Volunteers learn new skills, meet new people, gain confidence and have a lot of fun. The role is very rewarding. They are provided with a uniform and out of pocket expenses are paid.

Our guiding team is very diverse, ranging from 16 year olds wanting to develop important work skills, to volunteers with part time jobs who enjoy the variety of guiding, through to those who have retired who want to put something back into the community and use their life experience and skills.

Guides deliver each session according to a script on which they are trained. All guides are

interviewed and require an enhanced CRB check before being accepted and able to work independently with the children.

Where can I volunteer?

Safeside at Eastside is our larger centre and offers a programme for Year 5 and 6 pupils at primary school (9 and 10 year olds). This scheme emphasises the skills children need as they become more independent in the run up to secondary school, such as staying safe when out with friends, using public transport, and the consequences of crime. The Safeside at Handsworth programme is for Year 3 and 4

pupils (7 and 8 year olds) and focuses on fire, road, water and home safety. Volunteers can work at either or both



New for Y3/4: Safeside at Handsworth



Handsworth's Red Hot Education Station has been revamped, improved and rebranded as 'Safeside at Handsworth'. The new centre builds on a reputation for effective fire safety education by adding new scenarios covering road, water, home and personal safety. These new areas will allow more comprehensive coverage of the PSHE curriculum at Key Stage 2.

Our Junior Citizen programme for Year 3 and 4 lasts two hours

and continues the experiential approach of our larger Safeside at Eastside venue in central Birmingham. The visit focuses on basic safety issues for this age group whereas our Y5/6 scheme at Eastside develops skills around independence and wellbeing in the run up to secondary school.

At Handsworth, Y3/4 children visit each of the following scenarios in small groups, led by a trained volunteer visitor guide.

- Kitchen – fire safety and general kitchen safety
- Lounge – home and internet safety
- Water – water safety, basic first aid and emergency procedures
- Dark alleyway – personal safety, drugs and alcohol, peer pressure

- Bedrooms – fire safety and emergency procedures
- Road – pedestrian and bike safety
- Car - in car safety

The tour ends with a quiz using voting pods.

There is an entry fee of £6 per pupil.

An optional additional workshop about the fire service, fire and road safety is also available on request at no additional cost.

To book a visit for Y3/4 to Handsworth, please phone 0121 380 7566 or email safeside.handsworth@wmfs.net

Schools are responsible for arranging and funding their own transport.

Volunteer Profile: Asma Begum



centres, although we recommend you become proficient on one programme at a time!

For more information, and to apply, visit www.safeside.org.uk/Volunteer, phone Janet on 0121 380 6429, or email volunteer@wmfs.net

● Previous Experience.

- I previously worked as a Carer for adults with learning and physical disabilities and then as a Casework Assistant within an Immigration Firm.

● How I got involved

- Open day at Handworth Fire Station! Thought I'd make it a day out for the children, came across a couple of amazing volunteers on a stall, gave it a shot, hey presto, I'm still here and hopefully will be for a good while.

● Why I Volunteer

- I volunteer as I find it to be very rewarding. I enjoy being able to smile and laugh at the expressions of the children who have learnt some important lifeskills. Just knowing that I have put time to worthwhile use makes me feel good within myself. I enjoy it so

much that on occasions I forget I'm way past the age of 10. Every time I do a session it gets more and more exciting.

Throughout volunteering I've also met some amazing people. It's an opportunity to meet and socialise with different people from all different backgrounds.

● Something about myself

I'm a very sociable, fun, happy and caring person. I love spending time with my three children and friends. I love badminton, cooking, walking, being around people and writing poetry.

Dramatic scenes at Safeside: Lifeskills for KS3.

Birmingham drama students are helping to throw the spotlight on safety issues for West Midlands secondary school pupils, as part of a link-up between Safeside and the Birmingham School of Acting.

Key Stage 3 pupils who take part in the Lifeskills programme at Safeside are getting an added dose of realism thanks to scenarios acted out by members of BSA, which is part of Birmingham City University.

The course covers personal, fire, water, road and home safety, along with issues to do with drugs, alcohol, internet safety, bullying and the consequences of crime and anti-social behaviour.

Participants encounter the scenarios during a tour of Safeside - complete with its own full-size house, a working street crossing, car, canal and train - led by the centre's own team of trained presenters.

The mini dramas feature young people making under-age purchases, a fight in a dark alley, anti-social behaviour on a double-decker bus and a court appearance. The actors are taking a BA (Hons) course in Applied Performance (Community and Education).

"We're delighted to be working with the Birmingham School of Acting in this way, spreading important safety messages to West Midlands secondary school pupils," said Rob Hattersley, Safeside's Education Co-ordinator.

"In developing their own skills and expertise in community theatre, the degree students are adding an exciting element to our Lifeskills programme, challenging pupils who visit us to think through the consequences of various behaviours and decisions. The standard of the scenarios they've



developed is very impressive and the impact on pupils is huge. We'd like to thank them for all their hard work."

The Lifeskills tour runs on most Tuesdays during term time, and covers a significant section of the Personal, Social and Health Education curriculum at Key Stage 3. A non-acted version, called NGAGE, is available at any time and may be more suitable for some groups. To enquire about making a booking, teachers can phone 0121 380 6429 or e-mail safeside.eastside@wmfs.net.



Lifeskills/N-GAGE

'Make it a whole day trip'



Junior Citizen



A set of additional workshops is now available for schools booking a Y5/6 Junior Citizen tour at Eastside. Developed in partnership with Centro and Birmingham City Council, the

aim is to provide children with the skills to travel independently, safely and confidently, especially in the transition to secondary school, and to encourage greener travel choices.

Schools can book 2 workshops either before or after their main Junior Citizen tour booking, making the visit into a whole day. Each classroom caters for 30 pupils and so 2 classes can be catered for at the same time in the workshops.

When coupled with the main tour, we can cater for up to 4 classes over the day.

Workshops are now included in the £6 booking fee. An early bird discount may be available for schools who book quickly. Phone 0121 380 6429 for details or use our contact form.

Full details of currently available workshops are provided below. Additional workshops are under development and should be available during 2013.

Using Public Transport

Aimed at Y5 but suitable for Y6, this workshop encourages children to consider public transport as a sustainable and convenient travel option and begins to develop some of the skills they need to use it safely and independently.

A number of activities will introduce children to journey planning for both bus and train. Pupils will be presented with a number of realistic travel 'dilemmas' and the resulting discussion will raise awareness of risk and how to reduce it when travelling. Using Public Transport aims to build up pupil confidence in safe use of public transport.



It especially encourages them to make 'smarter' choices which reduce pollution, save time, cost less and increase their independence.

The session uses a series of video clips created by a local secondary school to explore the advantages

RoadWise

Aimed at Y5, but suitable also for Y6, RoadWise focuses on how pupils can stay safe when on the roads as a pedestrian or a car passenger.

In an engaging and practical session, pupils will investigate further how to reduce risk when crossing busy roads. They will learn what happens in a car during a collision and the consequences of high speeds. They will have the opportunity to use a speed gun to monitor traffic outside the Safeside building.

Pupils will go on to consider how street design can affect risk to car users and pedestrians alike, with implications for the streets around their own school and home.



Smarter Travel

This session aims to prepare Year 6 pupils for the travel challenges of the transition to secondary school.

It especially encourages them to make 'smarter' choices which reduce pollution, save time, cost less and increase their independence.

The session uses a series of video clips created by a local secondary school to explore the advantages

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of walking, cycling, using public transport and car-sharing. Using interactive voting systems to ensure full participation, pupils think about the issues and discuss them in groups.

The Smarter Travel workshop aims to encourage pupils to plan sustainable and safe methods of getting about independently, and to increase their confidence in doing so.

Contacts: **Eastside bookings:**
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