

Invitation

The Department of the Environment (DOE) is responsible for ensuring roads and road users are safe in Northern Ireland. The Road Safety Division within DOE is currently working on a mega-plan, called a strategy, on how they are going to make our roads safer over the next 10 years. The purpose of this Strategy is to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads.

In 2007, 1,210 people were killed or seriously injured in NI in road traffic collisions of whom 344 were children or young people (28.5% of the overall total). Given these figures it is important that children and young people are given the chance to participate in the creation of the Strategy.

DOE would like to hear from you (and your group) on how you think our roads and road users could be made safer.

Interested?

You or your group can:

- Send your ideas in writing by examining the enclosed questions and suggesting ways of addressing the road safety problems identified; or
- Have a meeting with some officials from DOE; or
- Invite some officials from DOE to your setting/activities.

Talk to your worker/leader about arranging to complete the questions or invite an official from DOE to your group meeting/activity. Contact names and telephone numbers are available on the Participation Networks proposal form.

DOE's Road Safety Division look forward to hearing from you.

5-11 year olds – questions to encourage discussion

Many children have been hurt, injured and some have even been killed when they are walking, playing, cycling and travelling in a car.

We want to know how safe you feel and what would make you feel even safer when you are walking, playing, cycling or travelling in a car.

Playing

Do you live in the countryside or in a street with lots of houses or apartments?

Is it safe to play on the street? If Yes/No why?

If you play on the street, what steps do you take to keep safe while you play?

What would make you feel even safer?

Walking/Cycling and travelling by car

Safe

1. What helps to make you feel safe when you are walking/cycling or travelling by car?
2. What has Mammy/Daddy/teacher or other adult taught you to do to help you stay safe when you are walking/cycling or travelling by car?
3. Do you walk/cycle or travel by car to school?
4. What might encourage you to walk/cycle to school?
5. Do you think using mobile phones, listening to iPods put you in any danger when you are walking or cycling? If Yes/No why?
6. Do you think iPods should be banned when you are walking or cycling?

Not safe

1. What makes you feel frightened or not safe when you are walking/cycling/ or travelling by car.
2. What would keep children even more safe when walking/cycling or travelling by car?

Feel Safer

1. What would make you feel safer when walking/cycling or travelling by car?

Walking

1. What are the rules to safe walking?
2. Did you learn the rules for walking safely in school? (Who taught you about walking safely?)
3. What could (adults / government) do to help you walk safely all of the time?
4. What can (adults/government) do to ensure drivers can see children walking in the dark?
5. Why do you think more boys than girls get hurt when they are walking?

Cycling

1. Do you wear a helmet when cycling?
 - a. Always
 - b. Sometimes
 - c. Never
2. Do you think that everyone should be made to wear a helmet when cycling?
3. What would make you wear a helmet?
4. Did you learn the rules on cycling safely in school?
 - a. If yes do you think the course helped you cycle more safely on the street or on the road?
5. Where do you cycle?
6. Why do you think more boys than girls get hurt when they are cycling?

Travelling in a car

1. When travelling in a car what would make you:
 - a. Wear a seatbelt?
 - b. Use a booster cushion?
2. What are the rules to being safe whilst travelling in a car?
3. Why do you think more boys than girls get hurt when they are travelling by car?