



# Teacher's Handbook

How to help your school  
stay safe on the road



# Welcome

## **Thank you for volunteering to be a school guide for the Junior Road Safety Officer (JRSO) scheme.**

This initiative gives pupils the opportunity to lead on promoting road safety to their school communities – in a fun way, while getting serious messages across.

This handbook includes more information about the scheme and your role, tips on giving guidance to your JRSOs and details of where to get more help, if you need it.

By supporting your school's JRSOs, you're not only making a difference to road safety in your local community, you're also part of a project that gives pupils an active role in road safety education.

# About the scheme

## The JRSO's role

Schools may choose JRSOs from Fifth Class and from Sixth Class. Their job is to spread road safety messages to your school community by giving talks, running competitions, putting up posters and using as many other fun ideas as they can come up with – using tips from the JRSO pack.

## Your role

Your role is to recruit JRSOs and then supervise them through activities and offer support and guidance. You'll need to work through the JRSO pack with them, help develop ideas and give practical support and encouragement for tasks. To get the most out of your JRSOs, meet with them regularly, to set tasks or check they have set realistic deadlines for themselves.

## Recruiting your JRSOs

You can select from Fifth Class and from Sixth Class. You could ask pupils to complete application forms – an example is included at the back of this handbook for photocopying – and make a selection based on their answers. Some schools also conduct interviews.

Alternatively, you could run a road safety competition, or get students to nominate their representatives. Having an informal talk with candidates before deciding who will take on the role will check they understand the job and they really want to do it.



"The selection process is a great experience for pupils."  
**JRSO School Guide**



# The JRSO pack

The JRSO pack is designed as an easy-to-use resource to help the JRSOs promote road safety around your school.

The JRSO pack is arranged into four sections:

**My job** - An introduction to being a JRSO, tips for getting the message across through assemblies, competitions, posters and other fun ideas. There's also a year planner with topic ideas for each month.

**Staying Street Safe** – Useful road safety advice which can be used as the basis for class talks and other activities.

**Activities** - Plenty of fun ideas for helping schoolmates learn about road safety, including a quiz, word searches and a crossword. These could just be used as activities, or as the basis for competitions.

**Activity Solutions** - Answers to the puzzles in the previous section.

While the ideas and activities in the pack provide a good starting point, the scheme is flexible so your JRSOs can do the tasks that best suit them and your school community. As you work through the pack with the JRSOs, encourage them to use their creativity and enthusiasm to develop their own ideas, and offer support to make them work for your school.



! "The scheme seems to have street cred!"  
JRSO School Guide

# Giving guidance

## Assembly or classroom talks

The pack encourages JRSOs to give talks in both school assemblies and the classroom – perhaps once a month.

Your JRSOs may want help choosing a topic. They can get ideas from the year planner or in the staying street safe section.

Encourage them to be creative. They could ask questions, get other students to help or make up songs and plays. Offer them a chance to practise with you first.

## Running competitions

Competitions are a great way to get people interested in road safety and they can involve the whole school, not just Fifth Class and Sixth Class.

Your JRSOs may need help picking a theme. They can use their year planner, road safety websites or, for extra impact, you could suggest tying it in with an assembly or class talk the JRSOs are giving. You may also need to help them choose a time and decide on a format.

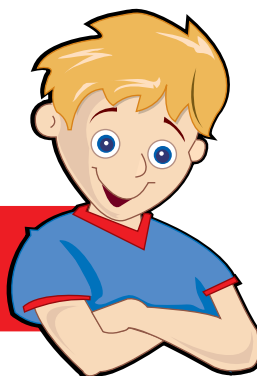
The worksheets in the Activities section could be photocopied for use as competitions. There are a lot of ideas in the pack or your JRSOs could come up with brand new ones. Remember that the activities and suggestions provided are only a guide and the JRSOs' own ideas may be more relevant for your school.

To judge entries, JRSOs should enlist the help of you, the Principal or other appropriate judges. There is a winner's certificate for you to photocopy, or if they are keen, JRSOs can make their own.

You could also help out with finding prizes. Winners can be announced in assembly and winning entries posted around school.



**"Have fun and take it seriously!"**  
**JRSO School Guide**



## Putting up posters

Why not encourage JRSOs to put posters up around the school reminding everyone to stay safe?



"It can take time to get things going so be patient"

**JRSO School Guide**

The JRSO's can also make their own road safety posters and enter poster competitions including the RSA's 'Seatbelt Sheriff' and 'High Glo Silver' Art competitions. Remind them to make sure the posters are bright and clear with a simple message to attract attention.

## More fun ideas

The pack gives examples of other things JRSOs have been doing. You could help your JRSOs try some of these.

For example, if your JRSOs are planning an event at lunch time, you may need to advise them on the best way to advertise it and help them decide in the format and how to keep it fun. There is no end to the ways your JRSOs can promote road safety. So keep encouraging them to be creative and to find the best ways for your school.



"Guide the JRSOs but let them do most of the work and come up with their own ideas."

**JRSO School Guide**



# Help and support

Your County Council's Road Safety Officer can provide advice and give assistance to you and your JRSO's throughout the scheme.

Contact the Co Monaghan Road Safety Officer on 047 30500 or email [roadsafetyofficer@monaghancoco.ie](mailto:roadsafetyofficer@monaghancoco.ie).

You can also contact the Road Safety Authority's Road Safety Promotion Officers on 1890 506080 or email [education@rsa.ie](mailto:education@rsa.ie) for advice or to arrange a visit to your school.



"Give it a go, it's worth it! Children enjoy it and it's easy to follow."

**JRSO School Guide**



# Junior Road Safety Officer Application form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Interests \_\_\_\_\_

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Why do you want to be a Junior Road Safety Officer?

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Why would you be a good Junior Road Safety Officer?

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Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

