

TEACHERS PACK



An interactive performance workshop for
Years 5&6 by StopWatch Theatre Company to
promote sustainable travel

STOPWATCH
THEATRE COMPANY

Thank you for inviting StopWatch Theatre Company to perform The Road Race in your school. We understand that organising events like this can cause significant disruption to the school timetable, so appreciate your help in making our visit happen. These pages should tell you everything you need to know about our visit.

What is it?

The Road Race is an interactive performance workshop devised by StopWatch Theatre Company. It is designed to support School Travel Plans, Walk to School initiatives and the TravelWise campaign.

How does it work?

It is delivered in a single 45 minute session which contains both performance and workshop elements. It may only be performed to Year 6 or Year 5 students, with a maximum group size of 60 per performance. This is a very active session with the participants constantly moving around the space, viewing different scenes and taking part in problem solving activities and discussions.

What is the story?

Join The Race Leader on a journey you will never forget – 30 years in the future to see car culture gone mad. Quality of life, fitness and the environment have all suffered, and everyone gets up at the crack of dawn to make the lengthy car journey to school.

With the help of the participants, our future commuter learns that there are alternatives to being driven around by Mum which are better for everybody, and most importantly FUN!

But in a final twist, the participants realise that it's not just in 30 years that change is needed. The problems are here NOW, and in the final challenge students identify regular journeys they currently make by car, that they could safely change to people-powered or public transport. It's fast, it's fun, and it makes kids want to change the way they travel!



What will the students learn?

By the end of the session the participants will:

- understand that we have a traffic problem
- realise that we are all part of that problem
- identify what they can each do to help solve the problem
- be encouraged to promote sustainable transport messages to others

What do I need to do on the day?

- Don't tell the audience what it is about - the element of surprise is important!
- Do allow only Years 6 and 5 to participate – other age groups are not suitable and may be disruptive
- Do clear the hall 45 minutes before the performance is due to start to allow the team to set-up and prepare. If the hall has to be used before the performance, we need a minimum of 20 minutes sole access to the space before the performance begins
- Do have 45 chairs available for use in the hall. We will organise these on our arrival. If chairs cannot be arranged, PE benches are suitable alternatives
- Do give us 45 minutes for each session and at least 15 minutes break between each session.
- Do ask the audience to arrive promptly, ideally without bags and coats. The actors will start the session outside of the hall and lead the audience in. Please divide the audience into 3 teams in the classroom, using your experience of pupils who work well together, or better apart!
- Don't ask the team to perform the session without teacher cover. There must be a teacher in attendance at all times



PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

The session uses a smoke machine to create atmosphere which will not affect the health of the participants, but may trigger very sensitive smoke alarms. A COSHH data sheet is available for the smoke fluid we use. If you have a smoke alarm in the performance space, it would be very helpful if that zone could be isolated for the duration of the performance. If this is not possible, we will perform the show without smoke.

We would like to mark out the hall floor with pvc tape as part of the set. There is a risk that the tape may lift some polish from wooden floors when it is removed. We will ask your permission to mark the floor when we arrive. If you have a floor which may be vulnerable and your site staff are not happy with this risk, please ensure the team are aware and we will attempt to manage the session without this part of the set.

The Road Race was originally commissioned by West Sussex County Council.