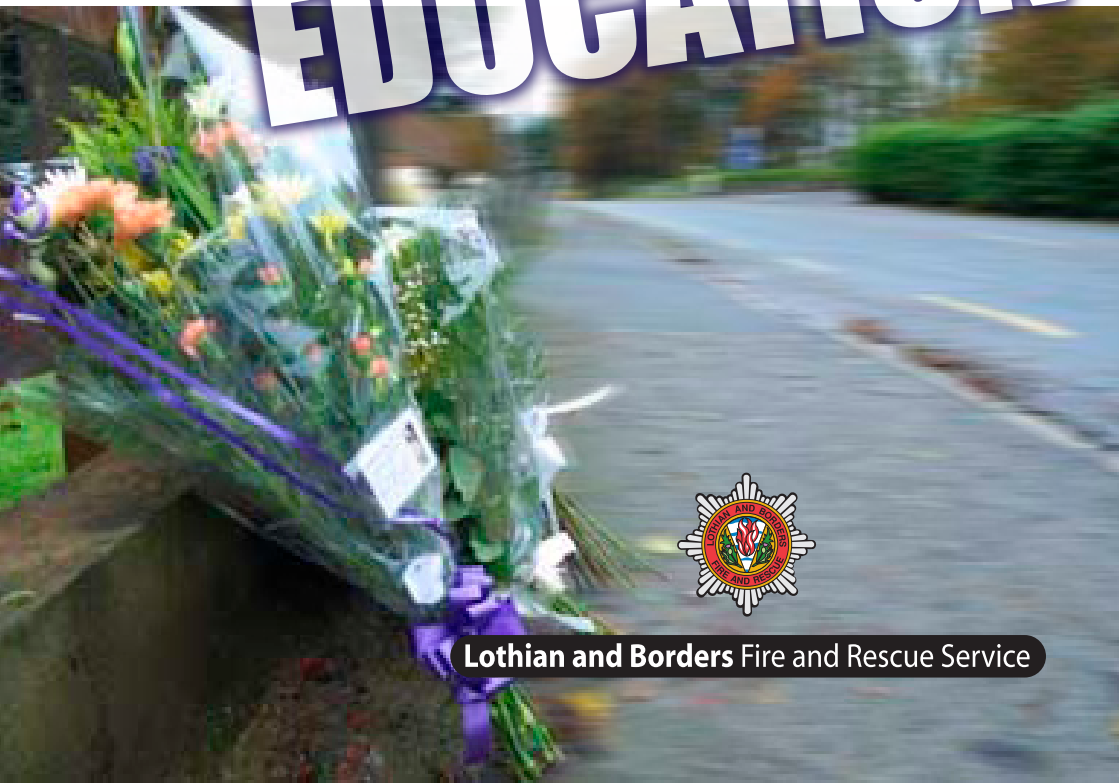


An overview of Road Safety Education provided by  
Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service



# ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION



**Lothian and Borders** Fire and Rescue Service



# ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION

## **Introduction**

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has for decades attended road traffic collisions in a purely reactive role. The advent of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 has made this a statutory duty with a responsibility to actively reduce the number of road traffic collisions on Scotland's roads.

Education in fire safety has been very effective over the past decade and this effectiveness is apparent when the reduction of fires, deaths and injuries are reported and scrutinised. This approach has been extended to the education of road users, particularly young and novice drivers, on the consequences of unsafe and irresponsible driving.

In response to the legislative change within the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005, Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service commenced road safety education work to support national strategies set out within the following documents:

- "Tomorrow's Roads: Safer for Everyone" (2000): Department for Transport.
- "Scottish Road Safety Strategy" (2008 Draft) : Scottish Government.
- "Scottish Fire and Rescue Services, Road Safety Strategy 2008-2011": CFOA (Scotland).



# ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION

This initial education work has been developed significantly into a standard workshop style package delivered by operational crews within their local areas. The package fully supports “Curriculum for Excellence” Guidelines and draws on best practice principles within the area of road safety.

Road safety is an issue that affects everyone in Scotland. We all need to use the roads to get around - to school, to work, to the doctor, to the shops and to the cinema. Most of us use the roads every day whether it be as a driver, passenger, cyclist or pedestrian. It is essential, therefore, to ensure that, as far as possible, we can all use the roads in safety.

To this end, the Scottish Government and road safety partners are committed to the outcome of safer road travel in Scotland and this vision is set out in the document ***Go Safe on Scotland's Roads It's Everyone's Responsibility - Scotland's Road Safety Framework to 2020***, published 2009, Scottish Government. As set out in this framework, Scotland's road safety vision is that there will be:

***“A steady reduction in the numbers of those killed and those seriously injured, with the ultimate vision of a future where no-one is killed on Scotland's roads, and the injury rate is much reduced”.***

Road Safety educational initiatives undertaken by and within Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service fully support the aims and vision of the Scottish Government in relation to significantly reducing the number of deaths and serious injuries on Scotland's roads. Furthermore, continued partnership working with other agencies is the key to ensuring that Scotland's road users are safer on Scotland's roads.

Any road safety educational initiatives undertaken by the organisation will fully support and compliment those delivered by our partner agencies. Furthermore, any education initiatives will fully compliment and support current road safety packages held within High Schools e.g “Crash Magnets”. These packages are designed to be delivered by the school and therefore LBFRS education packages will not take their place.

## Target Groups

There are various groups that will be targeted through road safety education, namely:

- S6 High School : Closest to new/novice driver age.
- S4 High School Leavers : This group will leave school with little or no formal road safety education.
- S6 Independent Schools : Higher likelihood of using parent's cars (high powered, insured as 2nd driver etc) and/or purchasing own car outright.
- Further Education Colleges : School leavers at S4/5 level who may not have received formal road safety education.
- Miscellaneous groups targeted in partnership with other road safety agencies. This is dependent on perceived risk groups being identified through statistics examination, local/national issues etc and may include S5 level pupils where identified.

## Partnership Working

A very effective working partnership commenced in 2007 whereby a 2 stage approach to road safety education is maintained. This involves Lothian and Borders Police Road Safety Unit maintaining a "causation" themed input with LBFRS providing a "consequences" themed input where possible. LBFRS will continue to fully support all partner road safety education agencies as required to ensure that we contribute to the reduction in road casualties/deaths on Scotland's roads. Provision of support to those agencies involves many initiatives from attendance at schools to attendance and participation at joint road safety education events.

## Standard Education Package ('Make It Or Break It')

A standard education package has been formulated and is delivered by local operational crews to various target groups within their respective station areas. Support is provided by the local Community Firefighter. The package lasts 50 minutes.

Local operational crews are utilised as they possess knowledge of their local community together with local risks within that community.





# ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION

The education package draws on various “best practice” approaches within Scotland. Furthermore, the education package follows all principles contained within the “Curriculum for Excellence” Guidelines.

The package is a workshop style session in which the operational crew delivers the input and facilitates active learning through discussion, syndicate work and interaction. It is designed to be delivered to 20 - 30 pupils at a time to ensure that the most effective syndicate work is achieved.

Furthermore, the RTC Demonstration Vehicle provides an effective visual stimulus to support our ‘Consequences’ themed road safety education package. The vehicle is also used to give pupils a full appreciation of the role of the Fire and Rescue Service at a road traffic collision.

The adopted standard education package is continuously audited to ensure ongoing improvement and effectiveness of the road safety message being delivered. All Target Group educational establishments are contacted on an annual basis for the forthcoming year.

It is hoped that each educational establishment recognises the importance of this education and ensures that time is set aside to accommodate this.

## **Road Safety Events**

Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service fully supports and will attend the various joint road safety events and initiatives throughout the year in partnership with the other road safety agencies, eg. ‘Westdrive’, ‘2MORO’s Driver’, ‘Driving Into The Future’. Our attendance involves the use of the RTC Demonstration Vehicle together with the local operational crew and fire appliance, Community Firefighter and other staff as appropriate.

For the majority of these events the standard education package is inappropriate due to the nature of the varied audiences. Therefore, education is on an ad hoc basis with the local fire crew and other staff delivering the road safety message as the event dictates, but still retaining a ‘consequences’ theme.

## **RTC Demonstration Vehicles**

Three vehicles have been purchased and are strategically placed at the following locations :

- Dalkeith (for use in Midlothian/East Lothian/ City of Edinburgh/West Lothian)
- Bathgate (for use in Midlothian/East Lothian/ City of Edinburgh/West Lothian)
- Galashiels (for use in Scottish Borders)

The vehicles are utilised as an integral, important and necessary part of all schools and events road safety education delivered by LBFRS staff and are utilised as a focal point at the various joint agency events.

Each vehicle has been in a road traffic collision and has a narrative that is referred to whilst delivering our education at the various events. The use of such vehicles provides excellent visual stimulus for the various target age groups and audiences.

Furthermore, these demonstration vehicles are and will continue to be utilised at the various weekend and similar events occurring throughout the year where the LBFRS Community Safety Vehicle is in attendance. This will ensure that the general public can receive to both home safety and road safety education.

Each constituent council area within LBFRS are served by an RTC Demonstration Vehicle and trailer unit for use at events and schools within that area. This will ensure that all schools are accommodated and receive effective road safety education from our operational crews.

## **Outcomes**

LBFRS is an integral and important member of each Council Road Safety Working / Steering Group and fully supports the work of those groups in partnership with other agencies represented.

**ROAD  
SAFETY  
EDUCATION**



Evaluation Forms are completed following each education establishment visit by operational crews. The evaluation forms are completed by teachers, pupils and the operational crew and are recorded and continuously audited to ensure that our standards are not only maintained but improved upon where appropriate.

A copy of the annual report will be made available to the other road safety partner agencies on request. In addition, the annual report will be made available to each constituent council road safety working group on request.

## **Contacts**

Initial contact is made with all High Schools and other establishments within the Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue service area on an annual basis by letter. High Schools / educational establishments are then required to make contact with LBFRS to arrange for education delivery.

## **Events**

Contacts are generally made and maintained for joint road safety events through continual liaison with other partner agencies through the various road safety working groups and direct contact with local managers and representatives from the various other agencies at local level.

### **LBFRS Contact**

**Community Safety (Residential / Education)**

**Education Services**

**Service Headquarters**

**76-78 Lauriston Place**

**Edinburgh EH3 9DE**

**Telephone 0131 228 2401**

**Fax 0131 659 7227**



**Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service**

[www.lbfire.org.uk](http://www.lbfire.org.uk)