

Crucial Crew

Crucial Crew is an established multi agency scheme aimed at year 6 pupils which has received much acclaim from those who have attended and observed it. It teaches children how to tackle the personal dangers they face and helps to prevent them from becoming involved in crime.

The scheme raises their awareness in a fun and effective way so that they may be better equipped to increase their own and others safety.

Crucial Crew has four broad aims to:

- Encourage responsible/effective action in children
- Sensitise children to emergency and/or dangerous situations
- Develop social awareness and care for the social environment and others
- Raise awareness of the consequences of offending behaviour

The initiative is an excellent example of a multi-agency partnership working together towards the specific objective of ensuring that children are aware of 'rescue responses' and choices they have in dangerous situations. Agencies are invited to take part according to the specific needs of the area e.g. the Coastguard in a coastal area, but most themes are common such as the Police and Fire Service. Themes have included making a 999 call, internet chat room, railway, water, electricity, gas, building site and countryside safety as well as disability, drug and alcohol awareness and hate crime among others.

Crucial Crew comprises 10 -12 theatre style sets that recreate situations of crime and danger. The children proceed around the sets in groups of 6 – 9, spending approximately 10 minutes at each scenario. They experience and participate in a range of realistic situations which are potentially life threatening in order to raise their awareness of what they can do to increase their own and others safety.

Each session is of two hours duration and is structured to the minute. On arriving at the site, pupils will be briefed for five minutes on what to expect. They will then split into 10 groups, each of which will commence at a different scenario. The children will spend 10 minutes at each of the sets in rotation, before returning for a final debriefing.

Before returning to school, each child will be given a 'goody-bag' containing a workbook specifically produced for the scheme and safety based pamphlets from the contributing organisations. This material will be valuable with regard to related follow-up project work throughout the school year. Teachers will be given a Crucial Crew certificate for each pupil, to be handed out later – perhaps at school assembly.

The schemes realism is particularly appealing to the children. During the visit, we will have provided the children with a wide range of experiences and situations through interactive teaching methods. Whilst the lessons learned at Crucial Crew are valuable, they are most effective when they are reinforced throughout the school year using some of the ideas in the teacher's packs.

Forthcoming Event Dates:

- Monday 11th March-Friday 15th March at Letton Hall, Shipdham for Breckland Crucial Crew.
- Monday 22nd April- Friday 26th April at King's Lynn Fire Station for King's Lynn and West Norfolk Children
- Monday 8th July – Friday 12th July at Easton College for South Norfolk Schools.
- Monday 16th September – Friday 20th September at Norfolk Showground for Norwich Schools
- Friday 18TH (for Gresham Prep School only) and Monday, 21st October – Friday 25th October for North Norfolk Schools.

Contact details

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