

Introducing Switched On travels with Suzi assembly

The **Switched On travels with Suzi** assembly aims to teach pupils aged 3-6 key, foundational skills about how to stay safe around the railway. From recognising real items they might encounter at the train station to learning the importance of safety signs and sounds, understanding what a level crossing is and does, and how to behave around the rail environment, pupils will learn a range of essential Switched On safety skills.

Please note, this assembly is based off existing Switched On travels with Suzi resources. While some of the content may seem familiar, it has been curated for your use in one interactive, streamlined assembly (or lesson).

Switched On travels with Suzi programme

The **Switched On travels with Suzi** is a collection of fun and interactive activities which offer pupils the opportunity to earn a series of Switched On badges by working together on mini quizzes, completing role-play tasks, learning the Ready Check Go! song and listening to rail experts like Sarah the Station Manager and Train Driver Tarj.

Suzi has created a special map to make sure everyone stays on the right track. Each stop offers the opportunity to collect a Switched On badge by learning all of the amazing and important things that keep us safe around the railway. Once pupils have completed all of the resources and gained all of the badges, they can be awarded with a Switched On travels with Suzi certificate.

Start exploring the 3-6 Switched On travels with Suzi programme via Suzi's interactive map [here](#).

All other resources for this age group can be found on the [Switched On website](#).

Curriculum links

KS1

- **PSHE**
Health and wellbeing:
Keeping safe
Relationships: Friendships,
Safe relationships
Living in the wider world:
Shared responsibilities
- **English**
Reading, Spoken language
- **Art and Design**

P1-P4

- **PSE**
Health and Wellbeing: Staying Safe, Friendships, Safe Relationships.
- **English**
Reading and Talking
- **Art and Design**

These resources can also be used within SMSC planning and delivery.

Why is there a need to incorporate rail safety into your teaching?

There are 20,000 miles of track, 30,000 bridges, tunnels and viaducts plus thousands of signals, level crossings and stations across our rail network. From special journeys to everyday commutes, the rail network helps get us where we need to be.

Even if we're not travelling, we need to be Switched On to the risks the rail environment can pose. There are more than 19,000 trespass incidents on the rail network every year.

Learning to hazard spot and address potentially dangerous behaviour starts at a young age. Schools have recognised the importance of teaching about a range of safety behaviours through PSHE and Citizenship lessons in school. The rail industry wants to support this vital work.



How to run the activities at school

This resource has been designed to be flexible and easy-to-use with a range of options for delivery. This teacher guidance document contains tips for delivery and a loose script that can be adapted by educators to best suit the needs of their learners.

Teachers may decide to:

- Deliver the assembly within the normal timetable to cover the safety messages with the whole school
- Run the assembly across a topic focus week, i.e. Rail Safety Week

How to use this resource in other settings

We're aware that youth groups and families may also want to use this resource. Specific guidance has been provided where appropriate within the lesson plan.

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Resource overview

Name of resource	Format	Learning outcomes
Switched On travels with Suzi assembly	PowerPoint presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I can talk about different safety signs and say what they mean.• I can show how to behave safely around the railway by following safety signs• I can name some things I might see at a train station• I can name some things I might see away from a train station• I can say what a level crossing is for• I can say why we must keep ourselves safe at level crossings• I can show how to behave safely at a level crossing

Getting started

- No planning is required for this activity. However, while clear prompts have been included in the guidance below, we'd recommend familiarising yourself with the presentation ahead of delivery.
- Throughout the assembly there will be stopping points where you will be invited to engage pupils to answer questions or call out answers. Your role will be to facilitate answers using the guidance below.
- All other Switched On travels with Suzi resources can be accessed via the Switched On [website](https://www.switchedonrailsafety.co.uk).
- If you're new to the Switched On travels with Suzi programme we'd recommend starting with Suzi's interactive map. This map acts as a navigation tool – clicking on each of the badges on the map will take you to a new resource where pupils can complete activities and collect their badges.

Switched On travels with Suzi assembly

Overview

This teacher guide will walk you through the delivery of the Switched On travels with Suzi assembly for 3-6-year-olds, giving key prompts and questions for each section.

Supporting resources and equipment required

- Switched On travels with Suzi assembly slides
- Screen/ projector/ TV for displaying the slides

Timing

15-20 minutes

Learning outcomes

- I can talk about different safety signs and say what they mean
- I can show how to behave safely around the railway by following safety signs
- I can name some things I might see at a train station
- I can name some things I might see away from a train station
- I can say what a level crossing is for
- I can say why we must keep ourselves safe at level crossings
- I can show how to behave safely at a level crossing

Activity guidance

Slide number	Slide	Question or information for pupils (Green – question) (Blue – information)	Participation or instruction
1	Title slide	<i>Please use this slide to prepare learners to be ready to engage in the assembly.</i>	
2	The train	What can we see in this picture?	<p>Ask pupils to raise their hand if they know what the picture is of. Look to see how many pupils raise their hand to recognise it as a train.</p> <p>With lots of volunteers – pupils can respond chorally, after 1,2,3, it's a TRAIN</p> <p>With limited volunteers – cold call someone to answer.</p>
		What is a train? What do we use it for?	<p>Check that pupils understand that trains are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A mode of transport • For travelling on • Can get us places instead of a car



Teacher Guidance



3-6 years

Slide number	Slide	Question or information for pupils (Green – question) (Blue – information)	Participation or instruction
2	The train	<p>As well as the train, we can also see some other things in the picture. Did anyone notice anything else?</p> <hr/> <p>Has anyone ever travelled on a train before?</p>	<p>Volunteers can be asked if they can notice any other aspects of the picture. Alternatively cold call on learners to point out what else we can see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train tracks – that the train travels along • The platform – where passengers wait for a train • Information boards – that tell us when our train is coming • Overhead line equipment – that give the train electrical power to run <hr/> <p>Pupils can raise their hand to show if they have been on a train. Teacher can hear responses from any pupils who want to share their story of going on a train, using prompt questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who did you go on the train with? • Where were you going on the train?
3	Meet Suzi!	<p>This is Suzi! Some of you might have met Suzi before, if you have ever used the Switched On travels with Suzi in your learning.</p> <p>Suzi and her mum have travelled on the train from their house quite a lot, but today, they are catching a train to a new city!</p> <p>We are going to go with Suzi and her mum as they travel by train, helping them to stay Switched On along the way. This means being safe by the railway.</p> <p>She is going to be especially Switched On looking out for things she has not seen before.</p>	<p>If this is your first time using the Switched On travels with Suzi materials, you can change this blurb to introduce Suzi for the first time (see suggestion below):</p> <p>This is Suzi, Mum and Pickles the dog! They're off on an adventure and are going to be travelling by train.</p> <hr/> <p>Call and response for Switched On!</p>
4	Suzi on the platform	<p>Suzi and her mum get to the train station and head to the platform to catch their train. While waiting for the train, Suzi notices that there is a yellow line painted along the edge of the platform.</p>	



Teacher Guidance



3-6 years

Slide number	Slide	Question or information for pupils (Green – question) (Blue – information)	Participation or instruction
4	Suzi on the platform	<p>What is this yellow line for?</p> <p>The yellow line is very important as it should not be crossed, apart from when you are getting on a train. Sometimes trains come through the station that are not stopping and it's very important you are not too close to the edge.</p>	Pupils to think, share or volunteer answers about the yellow line .
5	Signs on the platform	<p>Suzi should remember to stay away from the platform edge and behind the yellow line. This is so she – nor her belongings – don't fall onto the track when fast, strong trains come travelling through the station. Passing trains can cause air turbulence.</p> <p>Suzi also sees this sign. The sign says: Keep back from the platform edge</p> <p>What do you notice about this sign?</p>	<p>If appropriate, have children read the sign (challenge).</p> <p>Pupils can share with a partner or volunteers (hands up) to share observations. Points we want to highlight:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 'Keep back from the platform edge' sign means warning or danger It has an exclamation mark which means something is dangerous
6	Sounds on the platform	<p>While Suzi is waiting on the platform she hears an announcement (play platform announcement sound on the slide).</p> <p>Why might it be important for Suzi to listen to announcements? What could it be telling us?</p>	<p>Encourage pupils to shout out ideas or cold call on someone to answer what they think the announcement could be telling us/Suzi. Points we want to highlight are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The announcement could tell us important information about our train like when it is arriving and on what platform The announcement could be telling us about a platform change <p>Reiterate the point that its always important to listen to announcements when at the train station.</p> <p>ADDITIONAL MATERIALS: If you would like to explore some further class materials on staying safe at the station, you can use:</p> <p>https://switchedonrailsafety.co.uk/resources/whats-that-sound/</p>



Teacher Guidance



3-6 years

Slide number	Slide	Question or information for pupils (Green – question) (Blue – information)	Participation or instruction
7	Suzi at the train station	<p>While waiting for the train, Suzi has noticed a different sign.</p> <p>This sign says Danger Overhead live wires What might it mean if a sign says danger?</p> <p>This sign is yellow because it is a warning, which means there is a possible danger.</p> <p>Suzi, and everyone, need to be careful here because the train is powered by electricity, so we must stay away from the train tracks and the overhead line equipment (or wires).</p>	<p>If appropriate, have children read the sign (challenge)</p> <p>Talk to a partner or ask for volunteers, checking for understanding if children know danger means its unsafe. They may notice that the sign is yellow.</p>
8	Signs at the train station	<p>What are some of the ways that Suzi could make sure she is safe at the train station?</p> <hr/> <p>It's really important that we stay safe when at the train station by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holding an adults hand • Listening to the adult you are with • Following the signs and instructions • Staying away from the platform edge • Putting any toys or objects away in a bag so they don't get dropped or blow away onto the train tracks • Making sure we don't bring any objects that could get near the overhead line equipment (or wires), like a balloon or a flyable toy plane 	<p>Pupils can think and share ideas about how to stay safe at the train station, or prompt key ideas below.</p>
9	Suzi and the level crossing sign	<p>Suzi and her mum travel on the train and arrive at their destination. As they leave the station in the new city, they come across a level crossing.</p> <p>Has anyone seen a level crossing before?</p> <p>Has anyone seen this sign before?</p> <hr/> <p>We often find this sign at a level crossing. It helps people and cars to cross the train track safely, but only when the train is not coming.</p> <p>There are important lights and sounds this sign makes, that we need to be aware of to help us know when it is safe (and not safe) to cross the railway.</p>	<p>Ask for hands up (yes/no) if anyone has seen or used a level crossing before.</p> <p>Ask for hands up of anyone who has seen the level crossing sign.</p> <hr/> <p>Use actions to help show how the road and path travel over the train track, or physical objects to help depict if needed.</p>

Teacher Guidance



3-6 years

Slide number	Slide	Question or information for pupils (Green – question) (Blue – information)	Participation or instruction
10	Signs and lights at the level crossing	<p>This sign on the left tells Suzi to STOP and not cross the level crossing if the lights are flashing.</p> <p>At some crossings – including pedestrian ones – we might see the sign on the right which tells us to STOP, LOOK and LISTEN. It's always important that we follow the signs to keep ourselves safe!</p>	Highlight the sign STOP when lights show. Volunteer pupil to read out if appropriate. Use hand actions to depict STOP and lights (flashing hands) and pupils can join in.
11	Signs and lights at the level crossing	<p>If the lights do start flashing it means a train is approaching and it is not safe to cross.</p> <p>If there are gates or barriers, these will come down if a train is coming.</p> <p>What should Suzi do if she sees the lights flashing?</p>	Check for understanding through volunteers or call and response – use hand actions to depict lights (flashing hands) and pupils can join in.
12	Sounds at the level crossing	<p>Suzi can hear some other sounds at the level crossing. Let's listen to the sounds she is hearing.</p> <p>[Interact with the 'What's that sound' resource. Teacher may want to ask students which button they want to click on. Although teacher should guide students to click on the ones related to the signs if possible.]</p> <p>Suzi and her mum should look for the signs, lights, barriers and listen for the sounds.</p> <p>She should not cross the railway at the level crossing until the lights have stopped flashing and the barriers have lifted.</p>	<p>ADDITIONAL MATERIALS: If you would like to explore some further class materials on staying safe at the level crossing you can use:</p> <p>https://switchedonrailsafety.co.uk/resources/whats-that-sound/</p>



Teacher Guidance



3-6 years

Slide number	Slide	Question or information for pupils (Green – question) (Blue – information)	Participation or instruction
13	Being Switched On and safe! Picture 1	Remember, when we are being Switched On near the railway, we can keep ourselves and others safe! What about in this picture – is Suzi, Pickles and Mum being Switched On and safe?	Pupils can discuss or share ideas through volunteers or cold calling what they can see that is safe and being Switched On. Ideas include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Holding adults hand• Toys away in their bag• Behind the yellow line• Away from the platform edge The sentence stem can be used to support / scaffold (and model) for pupils to articulate their ideas: Are Suzi, Pickles and Mum being Switched On and safe by the railway?
14	Being Switched On and safe! Picture 2	Are Suzi, Pickles and Mum being Switched On and safe by the level crossing? What about the other people in the picture?	Pupils can discuss or share ideas through volunteers or cold calling what they can see that is safe and being Switched On. Ideas include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Noticing the stop, look and listen sign• Staying behind the barriers• Listening for the sounds• Other people are waiting in their cars for the train to pass• Holding hands with parent• Dog on a lead
15	Suzi arrives safely!	Thanks to you, Suzi has arrived at her destination safely. She looked for signs and listened to sounds. Thank you for helping her be safe and Switched On!	
16	Ready, Check, Go song	Let's remind ourselves about some of the important ways to be Switched On, by listening to this song with Suzi!	This song can be used as a resource to revisit with pupils again, reminding them to be safe near the railway. https://switchedonrailsafety.co.uk/resources/ready-check-go/

