

# Do you know the signs – Teacher Guidance

7-11 years

## Switched On for every journey

With a focus on developing good judgement and decision-making skills, the 'Switched On for every journey' resources not only asks pupils to identify potential dangers on their own journeys but to also spot risky behaviours in others.

From train stations to level crossings, pupils will be able to explain the different signs and sounds that could suggest a potential hazard. There's a chance to get Switched On to the people that keep the trains running too! Using our interactive map, pupils are in charge of their learning journey. They decide which trips to take, and which stops to make, as we travel together exploring new scenarios to discuss and learn from.

**We can all enjoy life's adventures when we spot signs of danger, look out for our friends and always stay Switched On.**

Vitality, this programme uses scenarios to challenge pupils' decision making. Based on real life experiences, pupils will face 'no going back' decision points. Using their empathy and newly developing knowledge of track safety, they are encouraged to create an outcome for each scenario that minimises risk.

Empathy and proactive thinking is at the heart of this program. In addition to building skills and knowledge of the railway, pupils are supported to imagine the thought processes of other travellers and those who work in the rail industry.

## Curriculum links

### KS2

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

### P4-P7

- **PSE**  
Health and Wellbeing: Mental Health, Staying Safe, Friendships, Safe Relationships.  
Living in the Wider World: Shared Responsibilities
- **English**  
Reading and Talking

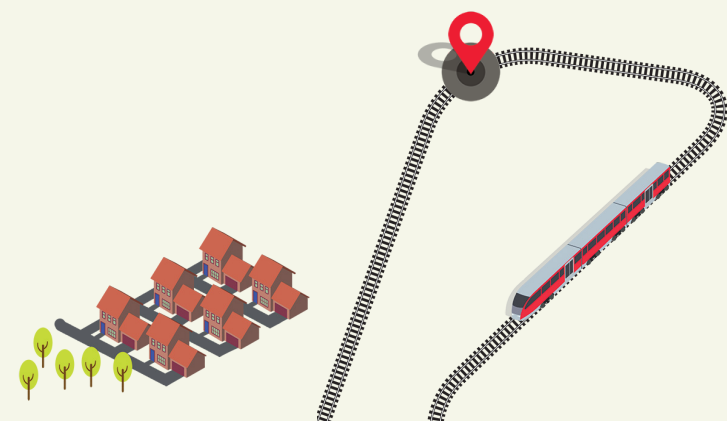
These resources can also be used within SMSC planning and delivery

## 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.



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7-11 years

## 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 activities linked to each lesson individually within the normal timetable
- Run all of the activities across a week, as part of a topic focus week

## Differentiation across KS2

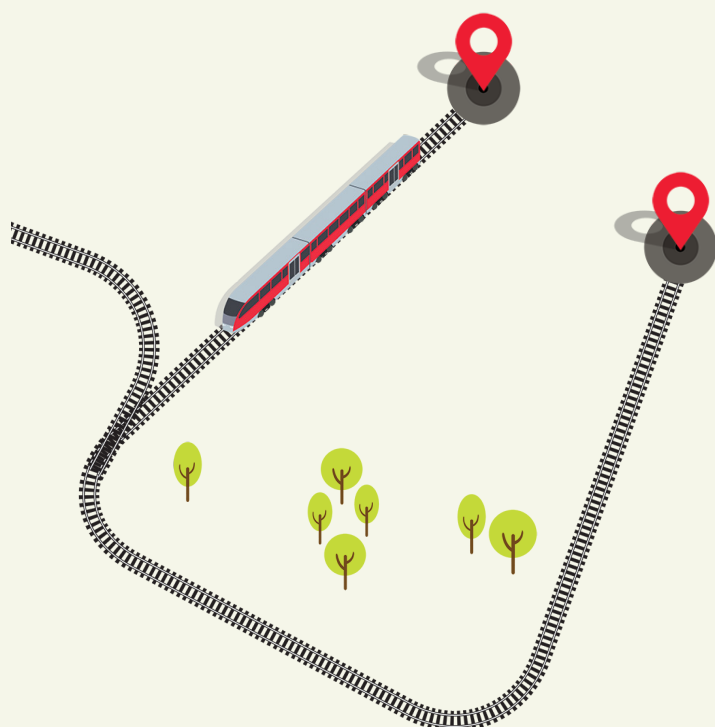
Additional delivery and differentiation recommendations have been made for each activity, as there is likely to be a range of attainment within this age group.

Activities for ages 7-9 are knowledge focussed. They teach behaviour and awareness skills. The resources for ages 9-11 develop these skills further, provoking thought about independent behaviour and challenging risky behavioural norms.

## How to run the activities in other settings

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

Contents	Page
Resource overview	3
Getting started	3
Do you know the signs?	3-6



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7-11 years

## Resource overview

Name of resource	Format	Learning outcomes 7-9	Learning outcomes 9-11
Do you know the signs?	Interactive quiz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I can recognise safety signs at a station and say what they mean</li><li>I can recognise the signs that keep us safe at a level crossing and say what they mean</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I can demonstrate that I understand rail safety signs and explain why they are there</li><li>I can describe the warning signs at a level crossing and what to do if they appear</li><li>I can describe other rail warning signs and reasons for these in different places</li></ul>

## Getting started

- Resources can be accessed via the [Switched On website](#). The map acts as the navigation, with each stop being a new opportunity to develop Switched On skills and knowledge
- If possible, start by screensharing the map. Draw pupil's attention to the map and ask what they think this map is all about? Perhaps they will pick up some clues and see that this is all about trains and the tracks. Encourage them to share their initial thoughts
- You may wish to allow pupils to choose their own journey and decide which resource they'd like to start with, or you can follow the route suggested in this guidance document
- Select the area you would like to start at and navigate to the correct part of the teacher guidance

## Learning outcomes 7-9

- I can recognise safety signs at a station and say what they mean
- I can recognise the signs that keep us safe at a level crossing and say what they mean

## Learning outcomes 9-11

- I can demonstrate that I understand rail safety signs and explain why they are there
- I can describe the warning signs at a level crossing and what to do if they appear
- I can describe other rail warning signs and reasons for these in different places

## Supporting resources and equipment required

- Do you know the signs? slides
- Optional: paper and pencils/colouring pencils to draw some of the signs and make notes to remind them of their meaning

## Suggested order

- Introduction: A discussion about why we need to have signs around the tracks
- Activity: Identify the signs
- Plenary: Are there other signs that could be created to prevent hazardous behaviour?

## Timing

20 minutes



## Do you know the signs?

### Overview

A fun activity to build familiarity with some of the common safety signs pupils may come into contact with when on their travels.

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7-11 years


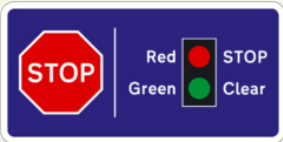


## Activity

### Home learning tips

This activity can work well at home. We recommend setting a time limit and bringing each sign up one by one. How many signs can you get correct in the time limit? When you have completed the activity once try to better your score by playing again.





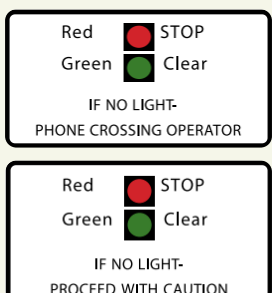


- This activity can be delivered to a whole class or, as with the other quizzes in this resource, you can add a competitive edge to the activity and put the class into small groups who can battle against each other to prove their Switched On credentials
- Before beginning the quiz refer back to the pupils' prior learning. Can they think of why there might need to be signs near the tracks and at stations? How many can they think of?

- There are many signs around the tracks that keep us safe. This quiz will test the pupils' knowledge of the signs
- Open up the **Do you know the signs? slides**. The quiz will go through a number of different safety signs and the pupils need to come up with some answers to what they mean
- Note that some of the signs are very similar so pupils will need to look closely to work out their meaning
- You can find the answers on the next page

Sign	What does it mean?	Where would you see it?
	This is advanced warning of a level crossing closure in order to let a train pass.	At level crossings.
	You must pay attention to the lights. Stop means a train is on its way. You should wait for the light to turn green before crossing the tracks.	You will see this sign at level crossings where there aren't barriers.
	Before crossing over the tracks you should Stop, Look and Listen to ensure a train isn't approaching. Once you have checked thoroughly that a train isn't approaching, carefully cross over the tracks.	At a level crossing where there is no other forms of protection like lights or barriers.
	A phone is nearby to use in case of emergency i.e. an obstruction on the tracks.	At a level crossing. Be aware that if there isn't an emergency phone, there will always be a number you can call in an emergency.




# Do you know the signs – Teacher Guidance

7-11 years

Sign	What does it mean?	Where would you see it?
	You can't go further than this sign as it could be dangerous.	At stations.
	Risk of electric shock due to overhead line equipment carrying electricity to power the trains.	At stations and at level crossings.
	This indicates that there is a level crossing ahead that uses either automatic barriers or gates operated manually by railway staff.	At a level crossing that has a gate or a barrier.
	If the lights at a level crossing continue to show, another train may be approaching.	At a level crossing.
<p>Spot the difference</p> 	<p>These signs tell you what to do at a level crossing. If the light is not showing red or green you must either: Stop, Look and Listen, if there is no train approaching you can cross over the tracks.</p> <p>Call the operator to discuss crossing the tracks safely.</p>	At a level crossing.
	This is a reminder that trains don't always sound their horns as they approach level crossings.	At a level crossing.
	There are many different types of level crossings. There may be red and green lights to indicate if it's safe to cross. If no light shows you need to use the telephone provided to call and check if it is safe to cross over the tracks.	At a level crossing.

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7-11 years

Sign	What does it mean?	Where would you see it?
	There are many different types of level crossings. There may be red and green lights to indicate if it's safe to cross. If no light shows you need to use the telephone provided to call and check if it is safe to cross over the tracks.	At a level crossing.
	There are many different types of level crossings. At this one there is a gate to protect you. You must Stop, Look and Listen to check that a train is not approaching before crossing over safely.	At a level crossing.
	There are many different types of level crossings. At this one there are lights and a gate to protect you. If no light shows you must telephone the signaller to check if that a train is not approaching.	At a level crossing.

## Plenary

Review the work that the pupils have completed. Reassure them that the activities that they will be completing within "Switched On for every journey" will help them to develop their skills and knowledge about staying safe around the tracks

## Differentiation

This activity can be extended further for pupils needing an additional challenge. Ask your pupils to write a list of other behaviours or scenarios that could be hazardous around the tracks for example:

- Bad weather
- Someone being distracted by a book/phone/conversation
- Someone dropping something/something landing on the track
- **If your pupils are looking for more of a challenge** you may wish to explore resources from our 'Living Switched On' programme which is designed for students aged 12-16, extending rail safety learning through more complex scenarios, deeper discussion and greater independence.
- **For learners with lower cognitive or literacy skills who would benefit from additional support or a slower pace of learning** you may wish to draw on resources from our 'Switched On travels with Suzi' programme, which are designed for pupils aged 3-6. These revisit key rail safety messages in a more supported and accessible way.