**Teacher Notes- Attitudes**

This unit is intended to introduce young people to important areas of road safety which will be of value to them throughout their lives. The overall message is that we should stop blaming others and re-examine our own attitudes and behaviour whilst using the roads.

Young people tend to take risks on the road, safe attitudes come with maturity. It is therefore important that young people should understand the dangers of the road. The process of transforming inexperienced pedestrians, cyclists and motorists into responsible road users is a long and complex one that needs both training and education. This unit aims to promote positive attitudes and good behaviours.

After completing this unit the students should:

• Understand what is meant by positive and negative attitudes towards road user behaviours.

• Be able to recognise attitudes which are more likely to be associated with risk-taking behaviour, and to reject these in favour of positive attitudes to safe practices on the roads.

• Appreciate the significance of the human factor in road collisions.

• Know some of the factors which are likely to help to reduce death and injury through road collisions.

This unit is aimed at a 35 -40 minute lesson. The teacher can use the task sheets as a follow up to the power point presentation as and when needed. We have included a suggested time for each task, but this is purely a guideline.

The following resources are intended to help you deliver this Unit.

• Baseline evaluation (Five minutes) (Annex A)

• Power point presentation/discussion (20 minutes)

• Task sheets (Five minutes per task sheet)

• Post evaluation (Five minutes) (Annex B)

**SAMPLE ANSWERS TO TASK SHEETS**

The answers given below are suggested rather than specific answers and are provided as a guide to discussion points rather than as definitive statements.

**Task Sheet 1**

1. **Positive & Negative behaviours**

**Positive Negative**

Patience Aggressive

Courtesy Resistance

Restraint Retaliation

Avoidance Intimidation

Moderation Competitiveness

Consideration Irritation

Negotiation Bravado

Overconfidence

These will be individual answers, there are no wrong answers, you will probably receive both positive and negative answers.

**Task Sheet 2**

You will recognise the advertisements as a compilation from the Doe Road Safety Campaigns, these advertisements show various scenarios, some with more serious consequences than others. This task sheet asks the students to think about positive and negative behaviours.

1. **In order the major causes of death and serious injuries on Northern Ireland roads?**

**1 – b – speeding**

**2 – a – inattention/careless driving**

**3 – c – drink/drug driving**

1. **Give three examples of positive attitudes when using the roads:**

Answers may include:

• Consideration to other road users, answers includes – giving way at a junction, making allowances for ‘L’ and ‘R’ drivers, abide by the speed limit and road signs, adhering to the highway code at all times

• Courtesy to other road users

• Patience

**This is not a definitive list**

1. **Give three examples of negative attitudes when using the roads:**

Answers may include:

• Aggression i.e. road rage such as tailgating, being abusive, rude gestures to other road users.

• Inconsideration – Bad lane procedures, i.e. cutting other drivers up.

• Over confidence/ bravado – this may be more common in novice drivers who think they are better than they actually are as they do not have the experience.

**This is not a definitive list**

**Task Sheet 3**

**1.a) How do you think the pedestrian’s attitudes contributed to the collision?**

Answers may include:

• The pedestrian was not wearing reflective, fluorescent clothing; he was wearing dark clothes making it difficult for anyone to see him.

• He was walking with his back to the oncoming traffic, remind pupils that they should always face oncoming traffic.

• He would have better avoiding walking on a dark country road at night, he should have made safer arrangements, such as a lift or taxi.

**This is not a definitive list**

**1.b) How do you think the motorcyclist’s attitudes contributed to the collision?**

Answers may include:

• He should have ensured that his headlight was in full working order, he had adequate time to have the bulb replaced, but chose to take a chance and drive in the dark.

• He should have adjusted his speed accordingly and taken more care on a dark country road.

**This is not a definitive list**

**2. How do you think their attitude might be modified leading to responsible, safe behaviours?**

• Pedestrians have a responsibility to be responsible road users; they were putting themselves and car drivers in danger with their irresponsible behaviour. A drunk pedestrian is as lethal as a drunk driver as they are no longer in control of their actions.

• The picture shows they are standing on the road; it is obvious to everyone to them that they are in danger.

**This is not a definitive list**

**3. What do you think of the dog owner’s attitude and behaviour regarding:**

**a) Their pet –** The dog is not responsible for his actions, the owner should have ensured that the dog remained on a lead and under control while on or near a road. The animal could have caused a collision by running in to the path of an oncoming vehicle.

**b) other road user –** This is an instance when drivers should be aware of their surroundings and be prepared for the unexpected, such as a dog running into their path. This is something a young driver may not have encountered before and must be prepared for.

For further information on drugs see www.talktofrank.com



