

Get streetwise with Junior Citizens

Year 6 schoolchildren from the London Borough of Hillingdon are learning about keeping themselves safe by considering topics such as internet safety, travelling on public transport and road safety, thanks to the Junior Citizens programme.

Funded by Hillingdon Council and run in partnership with Transport for London, London Fire Brigade, the Metropolitan Police, the NHS, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) and Hillingdon's Federation of Community Associations, Junior Citizens includes a range of educational and interactive group sessions aimed at 10 and 11 year olds to help them make the transition to secondary school.

Local volunteers, including students from Brunel University and social work students from New Bucks University, help to support the running of the sessions.

All year 6 children from primary schools in the borough are invited to attend, as well as local special needs schools.

Cllr Douglas Mills, Cabinet Member for Community, Commerce and Regeneration at Hillingdon Council, said:

"Taking the time to inform over 3,000 local children about how they can lead safer and more successful lives is important to Hillingdon Council and our community partners. We have designed interactive education sessions for the Junior Citizens programme so that children will leave feeling more confident of the best way to react to new and challenging situations they encounter as they grown up and enter secondary school."

Children who take part in Junior Citizens will learn about:

- road safety (Hillingdon Council)
- cycle safety (Hillingdon Council and London Fire Brigade)
- travelling on the London Underground (Transport For London)
- bus travel (Transport for London Safety and Citizenship team)
- fire safety (London Fire Brigade)
- knife crime (Metropolitan Police)
- drugs and alcohol (NHS Nurses)
- internet safety (New Bucks University)
- stranger danger (volunteers)
- water safety (RNLI)

They are awarded a Junior Citizens programme certificate at the end of the day that shows they have taken part.