

Road Safety Education Can Be Fun Hey Hey!

John Gill, musical guru and Derbyshire troubadour inspired East Midlands Area Group members at one of their quarterly meeting. This creative 'hands on' workshop was fun, inspirational and thought provoking. The group composed concise lyrics around the themes of sustainable travel to school and Road Safety.

John Gill immediately engaged the group with an intricate story which developed into a thought provoking song called Coelacanth. He then further involved us with a Children's rhyming song which we gleefully recited including our own names.

The whole group was delighted to hear their own sustainable transport and Road Safety lyrics performed by John who added an enchanting but simply structured tune with his guitar. This was a workshop which had previously been run successfully in a Derbyshire Primary School as a reward for 90% of pupils walking to school on Fridays.

Pupil centered learning is often considered one of the most successful teaching styles and although this workshop appeared loose and organic it was in fact the perfect vehicle for the pupils (and IRSO members in this case) to be creative and buy into the message. John Gill would be recommended for all age groups and for themes of both Road Safety and Sustainable Transport.

John Gill is currently working with Year 5 pupils from three Derbyshire Schools in order to produce an interactive CD classroom resource for wider distribution.

Please find offerings below from some of our East Midlands Area Group IRSO members. Not impressive? That's OK; maybe the experience and ownership of the creative process made this workshop special and can also make road safety & sustainable transport education fun and effective.

I like to walk to school each day,
See lots of things along the way,
Me and my friends got a lot to say - hey hey!

I like to walk to school each day,
It's better for me to walk they say,
Breathing in clean air along the way - hey hey!

The trees on my street, now they can't talk,
If they could they'd say I should walk,
Pass on these words and walk and walk and walk - hey hey!

I don't like to ride in the car with mum,
It's stuffy and smelly and not much fun,
And she doesn't let me listen to Radio One - hey hey!

I like to walk beside the road,
Stay on the pavement, hand we hold,
What a great way to learn the Green Cross Code - hey hey!

We're doing our bit for Global Warming,

Walking to school is habit forming,
Keeps us alert, we're never yawning - hey hey!

I like to ride my bike each day,
Pedaling along – it's the healthy way,
Wear the right gear – that's way we say - hey hey!

I wear a helmet to protect my head
If I didn't maybe I'd wind up dead
Or if not that, in a hospital bed - hey hey!

I do it right, I'm no prey,
For all the traffic on my way,
So I'm a safe cyclist every day, - hey hey!

I love to cycle, you know you would
We love to cycle – you really should
Come on and ride your bike – it does you good! - hey hey

I like walk to school from home
In the car mum always groans and moans
Skipping along in the healthy zone – hey hey!

We're committed environmentalist
I hope you all get my gist
Cos global warming's on everyone's list – hey hey

Walking to school is the thing to do
Tracking along with Bloo the Gnu
In Whaley Bridge it's nothing new – hey hey!