

Community Rail Lancashire

Community Rail Partnerships can play an important role in educating the rail passengers of the future through the provision of curriculum related educational programmes. These programmes introduce all aspects of rail travel and safety to a young audience.

Community Rail Lancashire has been working with Key Stage 2 pupils (ages 8-10) for over seven years. A curriculum linked extensive educational programme, based on the cartoon character 'Brian the Bull', involves over 8 hours of study. This is based around a school visit, a train journey and a full days study in the specially adapted classroom at Accrington Station.



Areas of study include timetable work, poetry, map making, technology and sustainability. During the day a Community Support Officer from BTP delivers a session on rail safety. In recognition of their work a 'Passport to Safe Travel' is issued to the pupils which records the knowledge they have gained and enables them to travel free, for a 3 month period, on the local line when accompanied by a fare paying adult. As one year 5 pupil from Padiham Green School said "I like everything about the train it is fun ".

Sussex Community Rail Partnership

Young people are our potential future passengers so we feel it is important to ensure they are well versed in travelling by train: how to find out which train to catch; how to buy a ticket; what to do at the station and on the train; how to travel safely and responsibly. The Sussex CRP has been providing such courses for 10 years. More recently for East and West Sussex County Councils it has carried out more detailed sessions for year 5 & 6 children including classroom sessions, visits to their local station and a trip on a train. Over the 10 years 3,500 young people have passed through our courses with 2500 in the last 3 years.

We also feel it is important that children have more general positive experiences involving trains and train travel and so many of our events have a child or family focus. We work with young people on art projects, media projects, station gardens and special one off safety events and station visits. This has seen us work with primary, secondary and college children across the whole of Sussex, from Newhaven Harbour Primary Schools multi-media display at Bishopstone station, to the youth project mosaic at London Road Brighton and Station Partnerships with Hastings Coast College fine art students.

