

All Primary Schools in Argyll and Bute take part in the Scottish Cycle Training Scheme. Cycle training used to take place solely in the playground but 92% of our schools now train and test on-road as we believe this is the most effective method of improving actual behaviour in traffic. We are proud of the high standard of practical training that is provided by the Instructors in Argyll and Bute and strive to improve upon this each year.

Having achieved such high standards with practical training we then considered how to improve on the theoretical knowledge necessary to become an independent cyclist. Schools teach the theory in different ways – some set homework tasks, some teach it in class while others leave it up to the child to learn at home. After consulting a sample of teachers we identified a lack of innovative educational resources to help children learn their theory. There was a clear need for a resource which would stimulate pupils' interest in learning and would be flexible enough to be used by a whole class or an individual.

For this reason, we approached 'Promethean', as many classrooms across Argyll and Bute were already equipped with ActivBoards. Using their software, ActivInspire, teachers would be able to create an inventive interactive resource. Our vision, with 'iCycle', was that teachers would be provided with time saving, pre-prepared 'flipchart' lessons, which facilitated interactive learning and were flexible enough to suit differing abilities.

We identified the following themes as being the most important for young cyclists –

- Cycle maintenance
- Equipment
- Manoeuvres
- Road position
- Priority at junctions
- Observation
- Signs and road markings
- Hazards for cyclists

To assess the anticipated benefits we decided to pilot 'iCycle' in classes that had previously undertaken cycle training. Teachers reported that all children were very excited and interested to take part in lessons. We trialled some as whole class activities and others as exercises where the children worked alone on a laptop. One teacher commented on "how appealing the tasks were and how well the children responded to each activity". She was particularly pleased with the less able children's reactions as they were most likely to struggle with reading. The teachers appreciated having readymade lessons and some expressed ways in which they could further develop 'iCycle' , eg, by adding local street names to junctions. All commented on how well the children joined in with the whole class exercises – "The helmet activities generated lots of discussion on whether helmets should be compulsory. They designed their own helmets and these form our wall display".

The pupils were pleased to be involved in a pilot study of 'iCycle' and readily offered their opinions. One said that "It sticks in your brain more than reading because you are actually doing it". Another commented that "It was a more interesting way to learn and it is more fun when we all do it together". They particularly enjoyed the game type activities – especially the timed road signs quiz. Teaching staff said that this would be an ideal 'brain break' activity as the children would be doing something different but would still be learning.

The completed flipcharts are available to download FREE from Promethean Planet (<http://www.prometheanplanet.com/server.php?show=nav.21006>), an on-line community for educators to discuss interactive pedagogy with their peers, as well as obtain resources, tips and guidance from other teachers and educational technology specialists. This allows educators in Argyll and Bute, Scotland and indeed anywhere on the planet to access our theory based resource. Pupils are also able to download a personal version of the software for use at home giving an opportunity for parental involvement.

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