

## Meaningful Learning Experiences

Strategic Commitment	✓	Part of a large academy trust's curriculum strategy
Curriculum Provision	✓	Bringing to life the PSED topic of 'Safety'
Employer Partnerships	✓	Part of an initiative to promote Allied Health Professions
Reflective Young People	✓	Developing skills in Speaking, Listening and Teamwork
Informed Career Choices	✓	Inspiring young children about working as a Paramedic

### Paramedics help reception class children learn the importance of keeping safe

Children in the Reception classes at Barton Hill Academy in Torquay learn about Safety as part of PSED lessons. This includes, *'Self-awareness and communication on how to be safe using the equipment – especially in the outdoor environment, explaining the reasons for rules, knowing right from wrong and trying to behave accordingly'*. Teachers explained that, *'We encourage the children to risk assess each situation, balancing the idea of taking 'risks' and building their independence, while also not getting hurt! Sometimes the issue can be that children do not know of the consequence or 'risk' until they have experienced it.'*

The teaching team responded positively to the idea of involving a Paramedic to provide some expert input *'as this expands the children's understanding of people who help us – a common topic in Early Years. There would have to be care taken that we do not scare children too much away from pushing themselves and therefore not trying. However, I believe children also need educating on why we also need to be careful as this may not be in their realm of experiences. So, it would be a great basis of discussion for the children and how to make their learning on this topic more relevant.'*

The Head of Professional Standards at the College of Paramedics provided a couple of informal video clips explaining the role of a Paramedic and suggesting a few practical ways in which children can keep themselves safe – and reduce the risk of an ambulance being required. The resources were well-received by the teaching team: *'These clips are perfect! Thank you so much Liz for making time in your busy schedule for us. We will include it in our planning for next week, I am sure it will spark some really interesting discussions and role play.'*

### Benefits for the Students

What can you remember about the work this person does?

*'Looks after people when they are poorly.'*

*'Takes care of people if they get hurt.'*

What is the most important thing you learned from this project?

*'To not put toys in my mouth.'*

*'To always wear my helmet on my bike.'*

### Benefits for the School

*'All the class teachers reflected positively on the opportunity for really thoughtful discussions with the children. Many of the children were keen to share their experiences of what could happen if they were not safe - many stories of falling off scooters and bikes which only further fuelled the emphasis of safety equipment. It was also very insightful to focus on some areas which would have not been immediately thought of while at school, such as discussions about putting things in mouths.'*

### Benefits for the Employer

- The project took place in the middle of the COVID health crisis, when the NHS and ambulance crews were under enormous pressure. The video clips not only avoided taking staff away from front-line roles, but also showed a health professional in their workplace.
- The project helped promote the role of Paramedics as *'healthcare professionals who have a unique role that crosses healthcare, public health, social care and public safety, they work autonomously providing care in a range of situations.'* (College of Paramedics)



A couple of short video clips from a senior member of the College of Paramedics helped to reinforce guidance for the youngest children in a primary school about practical steps to keep safe and to help minimise the demand on hard-pressed ambulance crews.

