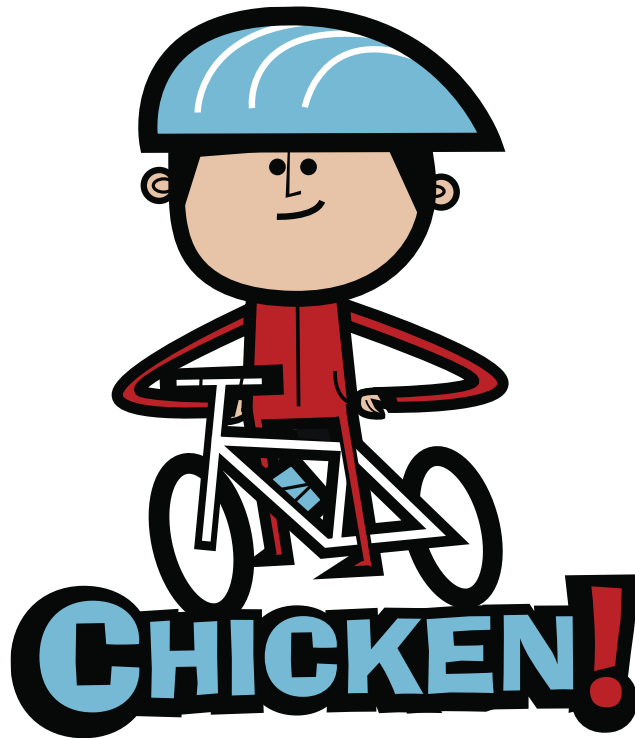


TEACHERS PACK



by Mark Wheeler

A road safety theatre-in-education
programme for Years 7, 6 & 5

STOPWATCH
THEATRE COMPANY

Thank you for inviting StopWatch Theatre Company to perform Chicken! by Mark Wheeler in your school. We understand that organising events like this can cause significant disruption to the school timetable, so appreciate your help in making our visit happen. These pages should tell you everything you need to know about our visit.

What is it?

Chicken! is a road safety theatre-in-education programme. Its main message is about the game of Chicken and how to stand up for yourself when dared to do something you don't want to do. It also incorporates the issue of cycle helmets.

How does it work?

It is delivered in a single 75 minute session which comprises a 45 minute play and 30 minute workshop. It may only be performed to Year 7, 6 & 5 students, with a maximum group size of 250 per performance. We do recommend if you have 200 or more in your year group, you consider booking 2 performances.

What is the story?

It's Christmas. Tammy and Chris are both thrilled to get cool new bikes. Give or take the odd unworn cycle helmet everything is great..... That is until one morning when Chris has a puncture and Tammy agrees to walk with him. They are late and in a hurry. They decide to race. Chris runs out across a busy main road and then flips open his camera phone and dares Tammy to do the same in front of a fast-approaching car...



What will the students learn?

The play reminds the students of the importance of cycling safely and of using the correct gear, particularly cycle helmets. As the story turns to dares, the high risks of playing 'Chicken' are highlighted. The ever popular Chicken! workshop demonstrates that in peer pressure situations, you always have a choice, and goes on to demonstrate key assertiveness techniques that may help you stick to your decision. Using these newfound skills, the audience are able to change the tragic outcome of the play.

What do I need to do on the day?

- Don't tell the audience what it is about - the element of surprise is important!
- Do allow only Years 7, 6 & 5 to participate – other age groups are not suitable and may be disruptive
- Do set up the chairs according to our seating plan before we arrive, or make some assistance available when we arrive
- Do ensure we have sole access to the hall 30 minutes before the start time. We require 1 mains power point
- Do bring the audience to the hall 5 minutes before the start time, ideally without coats and bags
- Do ensure we have a full 75 minutes to perform the play and workshop
- Do be aware that it will take us around 10 minutes to pack up and clear the hall
- Don't ask us to perform in a gym or sports hall unless there is no alternative. These spaces make very poor theatres and the audience will have difficulty hearing everything
- Don't ask the team to perform the play or workshop without teacher cover. There must be a teacher in attendance at all times
- Do try to allow form teachers and PSHE staff to attend the performance. This will allow the potential for follow-up work to be maximised



Chicken! Seating Layout (208 seats)

