

## Introduction

Welcome to the Down the Line Toolkit.

The Toolkit has been specially developed by Community Rail Lancashire to assist you in developing your own classroom work that is customised to the skills and abilities of your pupils. The subject tiles below allow you to explore in depth a variety of rail related topics and to see how they link into the key stage 2 National Curriculum. You don't have to be a railway expert to do this as the Toolkit provides you with all the information you need to develop a programme of work along with suggestions for a variety of activities ranging from individual research using the internet to group sessions where the pupils work collaboratively to solve a problem maybe through model making. Whilst the Toolkit has been aimed at meeting the requirements of the National Curriculum for key stage 2 pupils it is very easy to adapt it for use by early years and secondary pupils.

### Who can use the Toolkit?

Everyone can use the Toolkit! It has been written with the needs of teachers, community rail officers and those in the rail industry primarily in mind but the activities and information are universal.

### Is it up to date?

We all know that the requirements and priorities of the National Curriculum change. Community Rail Lancashire will ensure that the Toolkit is kept up to date so that it continues to meet your needs.

### Help is on hand

If you find any party of the Toolkit hard to follow or want to discuss your ideas in more detail then help is available. For pressing points call us on 01254 386579 (answerphone available) or for less urgent matters email us at [info@downtheline.org.uk](mailto:info@downtheline.org.uk). Please don't be afraid to ask! Depending on where you are located one of Community Rail Lancashire's specialist educational officers could arrange to meet with you to help shape your project.

### TOOLKIT P.O.I.N.T.S. to success

Successful classroom work requires forethought and planning. To help this process Community Rail Lancashire has put together 6 POINTS you need to keep in mind if you want to develop and implement a successful programme of work.

#### POINT 1:

**Planning & preparation** – this is essential to the success of the project. Be clear about you aim, objectives and the outcomes (what will be achieved) before going into the classroom. A lesson plan is always a good aide memoire and helps keep the project running smoothly.

**POINT 2:**

Be **O**rganised – ensure that all equipment, visual aids, photographs, PCs/tablets, worksheets, etc. that you need are ready before the start of the session. Think about how you want the classroom set out.

**POINT 3:** (for non-teachers)

Remember to **I**nvolve the teaching staff – it is important to remember that the teacher is ultimately responsible for the pupils in their class. Use the teacher’s expertise, I.T. skills and behaviour management to assist you throughout the delivery.

**POINT 4:**

**K**nowledge to impart – there must be a purpose to your session. Keep in mind the knowledge and outcomes that the children need to gain from your visit.

**POINT 5:**

**T**ime scale & management – essential to a good lesson. Involve teaching staff throughout.

**Point 6:**

**S**tudent success – what have the children gained? Are they able to take their experiences & knowledge forward?