

Lesson Plan: Respect Our Emergency Services

Grade Level: Secondary School Students (Ages 12-18)

Subject: Personal, Social, Health, and Economic Education (PSHE)

Duration: 60 minutes

Lesson Objectives:

- **Knowledge:** Students will understand the historical context of policing in the UK and the reasons behind the establishment of the police force.
 - **Comprehension:** Students will recognize the role of the police and other emergency services in maintaining a safe and civilized society.
 - **Analysis:** Students will explore factors contributing to distrust between young people and the police.
 - **Evaluation:** Students will reflect on their perceptions and discuss ways to build a positive relationship with emergency services.
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Materials Needed:

- **Video:** *"Respect Our Emergency Services"* (Ensure all students have watched the video prior to the lesson.)
 - Projector and screen (if reviewing video clips)
 - Whiteboard and markers
 - Handouts with key points from the video
 - Sticky notes and pens
 - **Optional:** Images from the 1800s depicting life before the police force and images of early police officers
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Lesson Outline:

1. Introduction (10 minutes):

- **Warm-Up Question:** Ask students, *"Imagine there were no emergency services today—what do you think society would be like?"*

- **Discussion:** Encourage a brief class discussion and jot down ideas on the whiteboard.
- **Purpose:** This will help students consider the importance of emergency services in their daily lives.

2. Historical Context (15 minutes):

- **Presentation:**
 - Briefly discuss the history of the UK before the establishment of the police force in 1829.
 - Highlight the rise in crime by 55% between 1811 and 1828 due to population growth and urbanization.
- **Visual Aids:** Show images depicting crimes in the 1800s and the first policemen.
- **Discussion Questions:**
 - *"Why do you think crime increased so much during that period?"*
 - *"How did the formation of emergency services, starting with the police, change society?"*

3. Understanding Today's Challenges (15 minutes):

- **Group Activity:**
 - Divide students into small groups.
 - Assign each group a topic:
 - Factors contributing to distrust between youth and police.
 - The impact of social media on perceptions of emergency services.
 - The importance of all emergency services in modern society.
- **Guided Questions:**
 - *"What are some reasons young people might distrust the police or other emergency services?"*
 - *"How does social media influence our views on emergency services?"*
 - *"What would happen if we didn't have emergency services today?"*

4. Class Discussion (10 minutes):

- **Share Findings:** Have each group present their thoughts.
- **Highlight Key Points:**
 - Reference the statistics from the video (e.g., only 36% of teenagers trust the police).

- Discuss the role of misinformation and sensationalism in media.

5. Role-Play Scenarios (10 minutes):

- **Scenario Setup:**
 - Provide scenarios where students might need to interact with emergency services (e.g., reporting a stolen phone, witnessing a fire).
- **Role-Play:**
 - In pairs, have students act out the scenarios, practicing respectful communication.
- **Debrief:**
 - Discuss how positive interactions can build trust.

6. Conclusion and Reflection (5 minutes):

- **Summarize Lesson:**
 - Reinforce the vital role of all emergency services and the importance of mutual respect.
 - **Reflection Question:** Ask students to write down one thing they learned and one question they still have.
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Assessment:

- **Participation:** During discussions and group activities.
 - **Reflection Response:** Evaluate understanding through their written reflections.
 - **Role-Play Engagement:** Observe interactions during scenarios.
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Extension Activities:

- **Homework Assignment:**
 - Write a short essay on how they can contribute to improving relationships between young people and emergency services.
- **Guest Speaker:**
 - Invite a local emergency worker to discuss their role and answer student questions.
- **Media Literacy Exercise:**
 - Analyze social media posts about emergency services to identify bias and discuss the impact of misinformation.

Teacher's Notes:

- **Sensitive Topics:** Be mindful of students who may have had negative experiences with emergency services.
- **Encourage Open Dialogue:** Foster an environment where students feel comfortable sharing their thoughts.
- **Addressing Misinformation:** Emphasize critical thinking when evaluating information from social media and other sources.

By the end of this lesson, students should have a deeper understanding of the role of emergency services in society and reflect on how mutual respect can lead to a safer community for everyone.