

# JCS 2022

## January to July



## Introduction:

The Junior Citizens Scheme is a “fast-paced, multiple-agency event” run in some local authorities for Year 6 students (and occasionally Year 5s). Schemes can be run either by agencies such as the Metropolitan Police, TfL, or local borough councils.

### Junior Citizenship Scheme content:

“At a Junior Citizenship Scheme, there is a carousel of activities with up to ten different agencies delivering short sessions on topics relating to good citizenship. Pupils complete a circuit of scenarios in small groups, learning through experience and real-life risk situations that test their ability to make responsible decisions. The events last for half a day.”

### Scenarios might include:

- Travelling by bus
- Travelling by Underground
- Fire Safety (Fire Brigade)
- Online Safety (Police)
- Knife Crime awareness (Police)
- What to do in an emergency – Ambulance Service
- Water Safety (RNLI)
- Road safety teams
- Basic Drug Awareness (Hope UK)

## Hope UK’s scenario:

In our session, we ask the pupils to identify a variety of substances and decide whether each one is ‘good for you’ or ‘not good for you’ and to say why. Each substance is chosen either because it is a substance they will come into contact with, or because it helps us with a specific message, often both.

Substance	Key Message
Alcohol	CMO recommended age of drinking and low risk drinking guidelines
Cigarettes	Harmful chemicals, addiction, and harm to the body
Aerosol Can	Risk of fire, and danger of misusing the product (as a ‘drug’)
Nitrous Oxide	Health risks
Cannabis	Legal Issues: Consequences of using illegal substances, age of criminal responsibility and effect of having a criminal record. Mental health issues of some drugs
Cocaine	‘If you don’t know what’s in it, bin it.’
Medicines	Safe use of medicine, trusted adults

## Events and Numbers, January to July 2022:

In many areas Junior Citizens was just restarting, and organisers were limiting numbers due to ongoing concerns around COVID-19. For example, before 2020, small schools would attend the same session and go around together. In 2022, many areas decided to keep schools separate, meaning some sessions had very few children attending.

JCS Area	Dates of Event	Number of Children Seen
Kingston	31/01 – 11/02	1,700
Reigate	31/01 – 11/02	1,223
Epsom	28/02 – 16/03	1,863
Woking	14/03 – 31/03	1,200
Kensington and Chelsea	21/03 – 01/04	559
Guildford	16/05 – 27/05	981
Barnet	07/06 – 27/06	1,336
Newham	13/06 – 01/07	1,500
Haringey	20/06 – 01/07	1,642
Croydon	28/06 – 01/07	388
<b>Total</b>		<b>12,392</b>

### **Educators and Staff:**

In the past, Hope UK volunteer educators carried the main bulk of JCS work, with staff filling in gaps where volunteers were not available. This year, as many people were concerned about working with school children, in case they carried the coronavirus, fewer volunteers were initially available, although this improved for some areas.

Number of staff involved: 6

Number of experienced volunteers involved: 5

Number of volunteers who trained and then took part for the first time: 7

### **Feedback from Schools:**

In general, schools only provide feedback to the organisers of JCS. However, below are the comments that we received from the organisers – either from the schools or from the organiser.

#### School comments:

- Very helpful
- Learnt more about drugs than they were aware of, good though 😊
- Builds on our PHSE curriculum around drug use
- Very informative and liked how she spoke with the children
- Excellent – very useful
- I loved Hope UK's workshop – I never knew about the warnings on aerosol cans. Our school needs Hope UK's work.
- One of the police officers asked if he could sit in on our session and afterwards came up to me and said, "our message was powerful and really needed for this age group".
- One parent, also a drug counsellor, told me afterwards "about time schools addressing this issue which tends to work better when a non-school member/teacher is presenting."

### Organiser Comments:

- I just wanted to quickly write and say a huge thank you to you and your teams for your Barnet JCS support, it was a good 3 weeks, and schools and students seemed to really enjoy the sessions – Teacher feedback was good / positive. It was great to partner with you, and I really appreciated your support, without it, we would not have such brilliant content to share.
- I would like to say a massive thank you to all of you for your support in making this year a massive success. If it were not for you and the staff and officers that attend this would not happen. The feedback we have had so far has all been extremely good so certainly something we should all be proud of. Please pass on my thanks to all that attended. They are a super team and would welcome them back happily next year

### **Feedback from Hope UK staff and volunteers:**

#### What went well?

- Timing for presentation was good/adequate- students participated very well
- Pupils responded really well to our scenario
- Graham did a fantastic job of gathering all the information from different organisations and putting it together on a spreadsheet and via email. Excellent communication keeping me in the loop.

#### What needed improvement (either by Hope UK or JCS organisers)?

- JCS: More information on direction to venues, some venues are more hidden compared to some if you are not driving. (May need to arrange an uber next time)
- JCS: There is a need to have a mini conversation/talk time with just teachers/staff (say 10-15 mins). Noticed that some teachers/staff don't even follow the students around to some of the talk's stations. Some of the staff were surprised of some of the facts shared etc...just a thought!
- I did more than one venue, and it is interesting how different JCS projects are organised and run – some much better than others. Some venues are hard to work in when there are lots of people in the same room, as it gets very noisy
- JCS: Contact with schools to reconfirm the correct venue, timings, numbers etc. (Croydon)
- JCS: Clear instructions to the children and staff as to what they are doing and where they are going. (Croydon)
- JCS: Feedback to the children after carousel could be so much better. (Croydon)
- JCS: It could have been a 'one off' but no one could get into the venue, no one around to open the units where resources were stored, when they did, some had been moved to

---

another location, chaos. Late set up for other organisations - not Hope UK, as we have minimum items. (Chessington)

- Hope UK: More leaflets at each venue. Each volunteer/staff having their own supply too.
- Hope UK: Volunteer - own set of drug box (maybe duplicates of the white powder and cannabis, after a while the bags split)
- Hope UK: Banner container - possible replacement as zips are broken

Any nice stories/concerning stories you could share:

- Some of the students were really open in sharing some of their personal stories in relation to some of their family members who were going through/have been through the challenges of alcohol /smoking usage. Some had more understanding of how it affects them.
- Some of the students said they will be able to go home now to have conversation with some of their family members that smoke. (They were really impressed by the number of chemicals in one cigarette. Mouth opened wide when the number is revealed.)
- One pupil shared with me that their brother had been in prison for drugs the previous year – the teacher clearly was not aware of this.
- Many of the pupils had questions about vaping, and it was obvious they were coming into contact with them.
- Before I asked the children if body spray could be good for them or not - a young girl raised her hand high, desperate to speak before I spoke. She shared in detail how her best friend died from spraying the contents of the can down the back of her throat. The rest of the group listened intently. I communicated that I was sorry for her loss and thanked her for sharing. Silence. Told the children they were beautiful, leaders, and have their whole lives ahead of them and how important it was for them to look after their bodies; by putting good things into it like water, food, air and it was okay to have treats. Explained that we care about them and want the best for them. Encouraging them, explaining that they have a great future ahead of them; these can be fulfilled if they make good choices which they will because they are intelligent.
- Many of the schools knew little about the chemicals in cigarettes. At least twenty children asked why would 'anyone want to make cigarettes' - some worked it out themselves, to make money, others struggled to understand why you would smoke if it said it can kill you.
- Nitrous oxide - a child shared that he saw someone dead, another person collapsed in a parkland where he lived, he shared with the group, there were lots of metal things around them.

- Alcohol - talking about this drug and asking the question - can they have fun without alcohol, most said yes. I shared that when they are eighteen, legally they are allowed to drink alcohol in a pub or buy it from an Off License. Many of the children didn't want to drink alcohol when they were older (on the back of adults acting and behaving differently when drunk). Several children were going to choose to drink alcohol!
- Feedback from many that ours was the most interesting workshop - including children & teachers.
- I could see that children who have parents smoking, drinking etc. were worried for them. A few children shared that grandad or mum was smoking or drinking and what could they do to help. I said they could share the information they heard. If the adult doesn't stop smoking, we cannot change other people's decisions. I encouraged the child that they can live differently by choosing not to smoke or drink alcohol, sharing that I know they are going to make good choices in their lives.
- Children listened attentively, participated well with one little girl (out of the blue) telling group her granddad died from cancer. I openly gave my heartfelt condolences for the loss and also thanked her for being brave and sharing her experience.
- As always children listened, participated and were well-behaved as always. The "disgusted" and "shocked" looks when told number of chemicals in one cigarette and the silent open mouth stares when told of consequences of nitrous oxide, again speaks volumes. Also, the other items shown.
- It is those children who deliberately hang around to ask me questions or share their thoughts at end of session which truly speaks volumes - the presence (& importance) of Hope UK at these events.

#### Anything else you would like to say?

- Majority of the students were not sure what nitrous oxide was, now they are more enlightened in what it is - some thought it was a bullet

#### **Further Contact:**

As we do other work besides Junior Citizens, we sometimes meet the young people we work with in other settings. So far, in 2022, we met:

- Two young people from Guildford JCS at New Wine
- One young person from Epsom JCS at New Wine

## Future Plans:

Booked so far for the next academic year:

Tower Hamlets JCS: 26 September – 14 October 2022 (15 days)

Tandridge JCS: 13 - 20 October 2022 (6 days)

Newham JCS: 7 - 25 November 2022 (15 days)

Newham JCS: (Phase 2) 16 January – 3 February 2023 (15 days)

Kensington & Chelsea JCS: 6 - 16 March 2023 (9 days)

Woking JCS: 13 - 31 March 2023 (15 days)

Barnet JCS: 5 - 23 June (15 days)

