



## TOPIC 6

# First aid

## Topic introduction

### Background

Accidents happen every day, on our roads, in our homes, in our schools and workplaces. The ability to manage minor injuries is essential; parents of young children will be aware of the bumps and grazes that happen. For people who drive, road traffic accidents can be minor or major. In fact, road accidents are responsible for over 3200 deaths every year. The ability to save a life by opening an airway or stemming bleeding is a vital community skill.

It is in our nature to avoid thinking about accidents until they happen. However, anyone could encounter an accident; taking time to learn what to do can mean that you can save a life. Historically, there have been social, cultural and economic barriers to first aid learning. Now, however, organisations like the British Red Cross and the St John Ambulance Association are developing specialist, targeted training programs to make first aid more accessible to a whole range of communities and individuals.

### National targets / policies

- Nationally there is a debate about the inclusion of first aid in the driving test, as drivers are highly likely to come across incidents involving injured people. See: [www.redcross.org.uk/standard.asp?id=45782](http://www.redcross.org.uk/standard.asp?id=45782) and [www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200506/ldhansrd/vo050630/text/50630-01.htm](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200506/ldhansrd/vo050630/text/50630-01.htm)
- The National Defibrillator Programme puts mobile defibrillators in public places such as airports and museums. [www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/HealthAndSocialCareTopics/CoronaryHeartDisease/CoronaryPromotionProject/fs/en](http://www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/HealthAndSocialCareTopics/CoronaryHeartDisease/CoronaryPromotionProject/fs/en)
- First aid is also part of the 'Citizenship' curriculum in schools. [www.citizenship-pieces.org.uk/initiatives/Learningoutcomes.htm](http://www.citizenship-pieces.org.uk/initiatives/Learningoutcomes.htm)

### This topic

The themes in this topic use a range of learning techniques designed to assist people to learn key first aid skills. They will help learners to identify up-to-date and accurate sources of information and to learn key skills in following instructions, both verbal and written. The themes will help learners to develop confidence in their abilities and may serve as a stepping stone to more advanced first aid learning. The themes in this topic are:

- Saving lives
- Use the Internet to find information

- Follow written instructions
- Watch first aid demonstrations
- Follow emergency instructions

### **Further information and suggestions**

- BBC First Aid Action: [www.bbc.co.uk/health/first\\_aid\\_action](http://www.bbc.co.uk/health/first_aid_action) – an interactive online course that teaches first aid skills.
- British Red Cross: [www.redcross.org.uk/firstaid](http://www.redcross.org.uk/firstaid) – gives information about first aid, local courses and a variety of resources for learning first aid.
- St John Ambulance Association: [www.sja.org.uk](http://www.sja.org.uk) – information on first aid courses
- St Andrews Ambulance Association: [www.firstaid.org.uk](http://www.firstaid.org.uk) – information about first aid in Scotland.

## Mapping to the core curriculum

Topic 6 First aid				
Theme	Literacy	Language	Numeracy	Page references
Saving lives	SLlr/E3.3, SLlr/L1.1, SLlr/E3.4, SLlr/L1.3, Rt/E3.2			328–334
Use the Internet to find information	Rw/E3.1, Rt/L1.4, Rt/L1.5, Ww/E3.1			335–344
Follow written instructions	Rt/E3.5, Rt/E3.3, Rt/E3.9, SLc/E3.3, Rw/E3.1			345–354
Watch first aid demonstrations	SLlr/L1.2, SLlr/L1.3, Rt/E3.9, Wt/L1.2			355–361
Follow emergency instructions	SLlr/E3.2, SLlr/L1.2, SLlr/L1.3			362–370

Highlighted curriculum items [ ] = included in National Tests