

KEYS4LIFE - AN OVERVIEW

THE PROGRAM

The Keys4Life Pre-driver Education program is administered by the Department of Education. It is recommended for Year 10 to 12 students and their parents/carers. The program immerses young people in a culture of respect, resilience and responsibility about safer road use, and develops knowledge, skills and attitudes about responsible road user practices, safer socialising, licensing, safer vehicles, extensive driving practice and the importance of looking after passengers, peers and friends.

The Department of Transport recognises Keys4Life as an important prerequisite to the WA Licensing System. It is the recommended pre-driver education strategy for Year 10 to 12 students in WA and provides a best practice approach to road safety education.

AIM

The aim of Keys4Life is for students to develop:

1. Positive road user attitudes and resilient capabilities to help them make safer, informed decisions in traffic and social situations (Gregerson, Nyberg & Berg, 2003).
2. An understanding of the importance of extensive supervised driving practice and driving safer vehicles (Senserrick, Ivers & Boufos, 2009).
3. A partnership with parents and the community in the learn to drive process (SDERA, 2009).

WA CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION

WA's School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) has approved Keys4Life as an endorsed program within the Personal Development category for students in Years 10, 11 or 12. Students must be enrolled with SCSA and achievement must be reported to SCSA in the year the program is completed.



FIND OUT MORE

For more information:

SCSA

Provider-developed endorsed programs

<https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/syllabus-and-support-materials/endorsed-programs/provider-developed-endorsed-programs>

OR contact the Department of Education at sdera.co@education.wa.edu.au or 08 9402 6415.

LEARNER'S PERMIT THEORY TEST

The Department of Transport authorises registered Keys4Life teachers to administer the Learner's Permit Theory Test at schools. This is the test that is usually conducted as a Computerised Theory Test (CTT) at a Transport DVS centre or agent.

Additional information regarding the testing process in the Keys4Life program can be found on pages 11-12 of this resource.

ASSESSMENT

A number of assessment opportunities are offered within the Keys4Life program.

1. **Behind the wheel journal** – The completion of the journal is a compulsory requirement for each student prior to undertaking the Learner's Permit Theory Test at school. Teachers may also choose some of the journal tasks and quizzes to assess students' understandings, beliefs and intentions about future driving behaviour.
2. **Keys4Life student workbook** – Students completing the workbook instead of the journal will be required to complete all workbook sections prior to undertaking the Learner's Permit Theory Test at school. Teachers may choose workbook activities and quizzes for student assessment.
3. **Learning activities** – Many of the Keys4Life activities in this resource provide additional opportunities for assessment.
4. **Assessment tasks** – There are several, optional assessment tasks available for the Keys4Life program. For a copy of these tasks contact sdera.co@education.wa.edu.au or 08 9402 6415.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION

For additional Keys4Life activities and information contact sdera.co@education.wa.edu.au or 08 9402 6415.

BEST PRACTICE ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION

BEST PRACTICE ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION (RSE)

The Keys4Life program is informed by best practice RSE and as such, has the potential to positively influence young people's behaviour in traffic-related and social situations. Best practice RSE should be evidence-based; delivered by trained teachers; support the licensing system and Safe System Approach; and develop social competencies and resilience.

EVIDENCE-INFORMED PRACTICE

Keys4Life:

- is underpinned by the Principles for School Road Safety Education (SDERA, 2009)
- aligns with guidelines about evidence-informed best practice in RSE
- is connected to and based on the WA licensing system
- promotes a whole-school approach
- is guided by research about positive attitudes and behaviours in traffic and social situations
- aligns with a strengths-based approach where social competencies and resilience are developed
- supports vehicle safety.

EFFECTIVE RSE IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Keys4Life:

- is ongoing, developmentally appropriate and fits within the school curriculum
- is holistic promoting a whole-school approach
- has relevant content with a focus on driving practice, vehicle safety, licensing and compliance
- includes age-appropriate alcohol and other drug information
- is interactive with initiatives to enhance school connectedness
- is engaging and informative for parents with initiatives about role modelling and risk-reduction
- is linked to the WA licensing system.

TEACHING AND LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Activities in Keys4Life are based on sound teaching and learning strategies that help young people manage challenging situations and adopt safer behaviours in traffic situations. The activities:

- reinforce existing laws, penalties and compliance with licensing, vehicle safety and safer driving
- promote the benefits of extensive and varied supervised driving experience
- help students to explore crash consequences for themselves and others and rehearse socially acceptable refusals for challenging situations
- provide opportunities for students to develop resilient attributes including, assertive communication, negotiation, planning and decision-making
- promote critical thinking about vulnerability, risk and reducing risk in driving scenarios
- correct myths and misinformation
- help students to explore and clarify their own beliefs and attitudes about driving situations and identify and consolidate their strengths
- encourage reflection and cooperation
- encourage students to make a personal vow towards safe and considerate driving.

SUPPORTIVE CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

The Keys4Life program encourages schools to establish a school ethos that supports road safety, and a classroom environment that encourages respect, cooperation and confidence. To achieve this, it is recommended that schools:

- build school capacity by ensuring teachers are trained by SDERA in the delivery of Keys4Life
- create sound traffic management strategies around the school.

It is also recommended that trained Keys4Life teachers:

- negotiate classroom rules that encourage students to share opinions without fear of judgement, prejudice and social exclusion
- consider the needs of all students and customise the teaching and learning experiences to address these
- recognise the devastating effect of road trauma and provide opportunities for students to 'opt out' if necessary
- are aware that images and messages arousing fear in students have not been proven to be effective RSE and do not encourage positive behaviour change (Simons-Morton & Ouimet, 2006).

WHOLE-SCHOOL APPROACH

Schools are advised to consider applying a comprehensive, whole-school approach to the Keys4Life program.

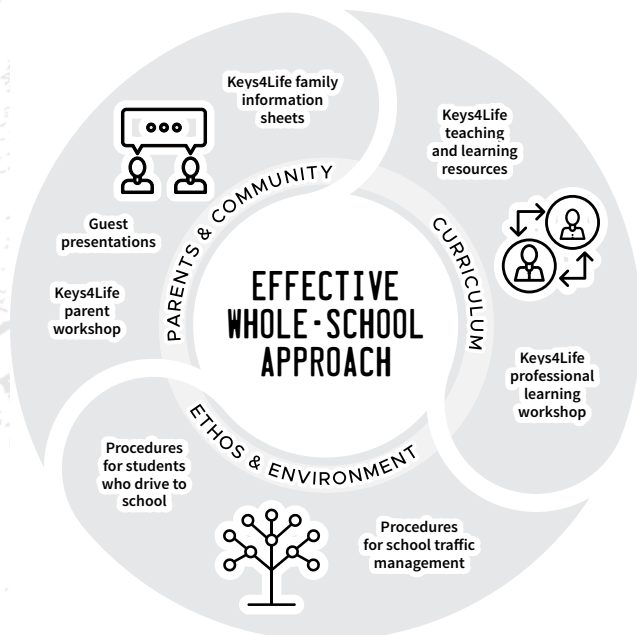


Diagram: Keys4Life Program – A whole-school approach



The initiatives included in the diagram are provided as a guide only.

ROAD SAFETY IN WA

TOWARDS ZERO AND THE SAFE SYSTEM APPROACH

Western Australia's road safety strategy is anchored in evidence-based research and provides a framework for both government and community to work in partnership and to achieve a long-term reduction in road-related deaths and serious injuries. A fundamental principle of this strategy is the Safe System approach where all road users have a shared responsibility to comply with the rules.

A Safe System recognises that humans are fallible, they make errors, and can only endure limited forces in a crash before being seriously injured or killed. A Safe System is about developing a safer road network with safer vehicles and a better understanding of the complex interactions between road users, roads and roadsides, vehicles and travel speeds. A Safe System aims to prevent crashes from occurring, reduce the severity of crashes, and the role of human error.

The cornerstones of the road safety strategy are – Safe Vehicles, Safe Road Users, Safe Roads and Roadsides and Safe Speeds. These have the potential to reduce serious injury and death in Western Australia. To find out more go to <https://www.rsc.wa.gov.au/Safe-System>.

YOUNG DRIVERS AND ROAD SAFETY

Young drivers are over-represented in road traffic injuries. It is the lack of hazard perception skills, risk awareness and self-assessment that makes young drivers crash. The WA licensing system and the WA State Government's Towards Zero Road Safety Strategy identify young novice drivers as having:

- a greater chance of serious injury and death than any other age group
- a greater risk of crashing within the first six months on P plates, particularly young men
- an increased exposure to risk due to a combination of inexperience and overconfidence.

One of the most compelling pieces of evidence to address these risks, is that extensive and varied driving practice under supervision can significantly reduce the crash rate for provisional drivers (P plate drivers) (Senserrick, 2004). This important protective measure is reinforced throughout the Keys4Life program and is an integral part of the Towards Zero strategy and WA licensing system.