

People who help us: the RNLI

1. As the pupils enter

Have the webpage open:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/3YPF27c8p9SZwM0J9W6gkh0/people-who-help-us-the-rnli-grace-darling>

Play your chosen music and display the image of an RNLI lifeboat.

2. Introduction

If you have played music as the children enter you may wish to begin by putting the music in context and explaining its use.

Then, ask the children: 'Who has been to the seaside? Was it for a day out or for a holiday?' [Gather responses].

Ask: 'Are there any golden rules for staying safe at the seaside? What happens if we get in to difficulty at the seaside? Who can help us.' [Gather responses].

Introduce the Coast Guards and the RNLI (Royal National Lifeboat Institution). Draw the children's attention to the image of a lifeboat going to the rescue.

Ask: 'Do you think people who are brave enough to work for the RNLI should be paid a lot of money?' Make the children aware that service for the RNLI is entirely voluntary.

Introduce the fact that one of the RNLI's 350 lifeboats is named 'Grace Darling' after a young woman who lived in Victorian times. 'Now we're going to watch a short video to find out why...'

3. Play the video

Play the video. The duration is 4' 03" and the final words are: '...my courage and determination to do something extraordinary.'

4 & 5. Time to talk

Lead a discussion about Grace Darling and the men and women who volunteer for the RNLI:

- How do you think Grace was feeling before / during / and after the rescue?
- Would you say she was 'brave'? What does 'being brave' mean?
- What would it be like if we had no one to look after us at the seaside or in the sea?

- What can we all do to make sure we stay safe at the seaside and do not require emergency help? [Gather responses].

End by emphasising keeping safe at the seaside. The RNLI website has comprehensive guidance, which can be summarised as: swimming at beaches with life guards; understanding flags and signs; understanding tides and currents; using wetsuits when appropriate; understanding where it is appropriate to use an inflatable; understanding sun safety.

Play video



6. Time to sing

An opportunity to sing your chosen song.

7. Opportunity to reflect

Today we've heard what a powerful force the sea can be... And how we need to be alert to the power of the sea and take note of it...

And we've heard about the selfless volunteers all over the country who crew the lifeboats and lifeboat stations of the RNLI... People willing to place themselves at risk to protect others...

Think about a time when you've helped someone...even though you found it difficult to do it... And think also about how grateful you are to have people who help us in times of difficulty...

In your heads you can say a silent 'Thank you' for their help...

8. Opportunity for prayer

Thank you for the beauty of the sea and the fun we can have at the seaside. And thank you for the lives of Grace Darling and all those people who help to keep us safe. Help us to remember not to take them for granted...and to make sure we do everything we can to be aware of risk and to keep ourselves safe. Amen.