Theatre in education

Learning objectives
To consider how TiE can effectively engage students in order to put across a topical message.
To co-operate with others.

Learning outcomes
By the end of this session:

■ All students will have taken part in the performance of a TiE play.
■ Most students will have taken part in the production and performance of a TiE play.
■ Some students will have played an active and effective role in the production and performance of a TiE play.

Teaching sequence

Starter
In groups of four, ask students to brainstorm the issues affecting young people today and particularly those things which make them worry (for example exam result, knife crime or the environment).
Take feedback and write their ideas on the board.
5 mins

Main activities
Introduce the term ‘theatre in education’ (TiE) on Slide 2:

What is TiE?

TiE starts with an educational topic or debate and develops a show around it to be performed in schools. Sometimes they have drama workshops too and they may involve the pupils in the performance itself.

Continued on next sheet ...
Because these groups specialise in educational work, the performances have been designed with particular aspects of the curriculum and a particular Key Stage in mind. TiE productions are also especially adapted for touring, making them flexible enough to perform well in school settings. (teachernet.gov.uk)

‘Street Wise’ is TiE. Ask students to discuss how and why:

As well as anti-social behaviour in general, it focuses on arson and the consequences for the offender and the victim

Its central character is a teenager with a troubled past who starts getting into trouble when he is the same age as members of the audience

It is aimed at KS3 students and the Citizenship Curriculum in particular

The presenter directs questions at the audience and invites students to ask questions

The production tours schools in Kent

Tell students that they will be designing their own TiE play. Ask them to consider what they liked most about the ‘Street Wise’ performance and what they would have done differently as this will impact on how they produce their own performance. If necessary, they can write their ideas in a chart using Slide 3 of the PowerPoint presentation.

Continued on next sheet ...
Ask students to choose their own small groups of four or five. They must choose at least one area of concern in order to produce their own ‘TiE’ piece which could be performed to younger students (You could ask them to prepare the play for Year 6 students). They can use the same format as ‘Street Wise’ with the offender meeting the victim or choose another method of putting their message across. Students can use the TiE planning sheet.

Tell students to plan and rehearse their improvised pieces.

Plenary Students must perform their plays with 20 mins feedback from their classmates. Ask the audience to think about the effectiveness of the message.

Possible homework activities
Students could evaluate their own play and their performance as part of a group.

Suggestions for further activities
This ‘theatre in education’ piece could be developed further in subsequent lessons:

After the initial performance, students could revise their play using the feedback they received.

Students could develop scripts based on the feedback received and/or rehearse their new play ready for another performance (in a classroom or assembly).

The plays could be developed into short films.

Key moments from the plays could be made into tableaux and photographed to create a montage of events.

Students could design workshops to accompany either the ‘Street Wise’ performance or their own TiE plays.