

Dear Parents/Guardians

West Area Police have been working hard to tackle crime. One key area that supports this is educating young people around personal safety. Parents/carers play a vital role in educating their children and we would kindly ask those that care for children to please have a conversation about personal safety with them.

Youths congregating in transport hubs and town centres is leading to Anti social behaviour issues and increased levels of youth violence. For most students this won't be an issue however we know that sometimes students can't help but be drawn to the area by curiosity when they hear about a possible fight.

We want you as parents to support keeping your children safe after school. This includes knowing where they are, encouraging them to go straight home and not be drawn to areas where they are aware there could be trouble and would ask that you discuss the points with your children below:

Travel straight Home from School.

Whilst some children are a short walk from their home address others aren't and require the use of public transport to get home. This can often mean travelling through the transport hubs on the borough. Young people when changing bus or train should avoid loitering in the transport hubs for longer than is absolutely necessary. Don't be drawn to areas where a lots of young people hang about.

Avoid traveling alone.

If your child is going out, be it to or home from school, or elsewhere, they should try and travel with a friend. If they are in an area and feel like there is going to be an issue. Don't hang around, go to a local place of safety, this may be somewhere like a shop, library or even head back to school. If this isn't possible keep walking away and always call 999 on their mobile to ask for help, make sure they are aware of the road they are on to assist police getting to them quickly.

Do not go to an area where there is rumours of suspected violence or trouble.

If your child becomes aware of possible fights or youth violence to make staff aware at school so the matter can be reported to police. Do not travel to that area out of curiosity or to watch. Police are working with schools to identify those present and if there is no good reason for being in an area they risk their details being passed onto police. Discuss what an alternative route home would be so they are aware of how to avoid the central areas.

What to do if you are a victim

In the unfortunate event that they are a victim our advice is stay calm. Call 999 as soon as practicably possible, please do not wait until they get home.

www.fearless.org is another website that young people can use to report crime. It is linked with Crimestoppers, so the same principles of being able to report incidents anonymously apply.

www.police.uk/streetsafe is a website that members of the public can report areas that they feel unsafe in. We would welcome parents to report areas that children feel unsafe on their way home from school.

We'd like to thank you for your support in keeping our young people safe. If you have any issues or questions, or are concerned about your child in anyway in relation to the above please contact your school. If you would like further advice on crime prevention please contact your school and ask them to pass your details to the safer schools officer.

Allyson Keith
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Safer School's Sergeant