

Ref: KHI/JCR/Staying-safe-over-summer

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Barr Beacon School
www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk

Staying Safe Over Summer

As we approach the summer holidays, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support throughout the academic year. Safeguarding is a partnership between school and home, and the summer break provides an important opportunity for us all to work together to help keep children safe.

Whilst the holidays are often a time for relaxation and enjoyment, the change in routine, longer evenings and increased independence can also present additional risks. Children may spend more time online, be out in the community for longer periods, or find themselves in situations where they are more vulnerable to harm.

We therefore ask all families to take extra care over the summer by:

- Knowing where your child is, who they are with, and when they are expected home
- Maintaining open and honest conversations about staying safe, both online and in the community
- Regularly checking privacy settings and monitoring online activity, particularly when using social media, messaging apps and online gaming platforms
- Reminding your child that if something does not feel right, they should speak to a trusted adult immediately

With warmer weather, many young people are naturally drawn to rivers, canals, lakes, reservoirs and other open water. Whilst these places may *appear* safe, they can present significant hidden dangers, including cold water shock, strong currents, deep water and submerged objects. Please remind your child to:

- Never swim in rivers, canals, reservoirs or other unsupervised open water
- Only swim at lifeguarded beaches or swimming facilities
- Avoid jumping or diving into open water
- Stay away from the edges of canals, rivers and reservoirs where banks may be unstable or slippery.
- Call **999** and ask for the Coastguard if someone is in difficulty at the coast, or **999** and ask for the Fire and Rescue Service if the incident is inland. They should never enter the water themselves to attempt a rescue.

Please also be mindful of the importance of respectful behaviour within the community. We encourage all children to demonstrate the Beacon Values, recognising that their actions can have a significant impact on those around them.

We hope that all of our families enjoy a safe, restful and enjoyable summer together. Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep our young people safe, happy and well. If you have any questions, please contact us via postbox@barrbeaconschool.co.uk.

Yours sincerely,

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