

16 June 2023



Safeguarding & Child Protection: Support and Advice for Parents

Dear Parent/Guardian

**Turves Green
Boys' School**
www.tgbs.co.uk

Essential Open Water Safety Advice for the Summer Months

At our school, we prioritise the wellbeing of our pupils and families above all else. We are committed to creating a safe and nurturing learning environment that fosters the academic, social, and emotional growth of every pupil. This *Safeguarding* letter contains essential open water safety advice for the Summer months. The QR codes included at the end of the letter will lead you to informative websites that offer resources, guidance, and tailored support for parents seeking additional information on this topic.

With the arrival of summer, many individuals are drawn to various open water locations, such as lakes, rivers, and coastal areas, to enjoy recreational activities. While these environments can provide fantastic opportunities for leisure and relaxation, it is crucial that we prioritise the safety of our children and ourselves. Therefore, I would like to provide you with some essential open water safety advice to ensure that this summer remains safe and enjoyable for all.

1. **Supervision:** It is essential to supervise children closely when they are near or in open water. They should always be accompanied by a responsible adult who can provide constant supervision and ensure their safety.
2. **Swimming Ability:** Assess your child's swimming abilities and encourage them to improve their skills by enrolling them in swimming lessons if necessary. Knowing how to swim confidently and competently greatly enhances their safety in open water.
3. **Recognise Hazards:** Familiarise yourself and your children with the potential hazards associated with different water environments. These may include hidden currents, sudden drop-offs, submerged objects, and changes in water depth. Understanding these hazards will help you make informed decisions and avoid dangerous situations.
4. **Respect Warning Signs:** Pay close attention to any warning signs, flags, or notices displayed at swimming areas. These signs are there to inform you of any specific risks or restrictions, and it is crucial to adhere to them for your safety.
5. **Safety Equipment:** Encourage your child to use appropriate safety equipment when participating in water activities. This may include wearing a life jacket or buoyancy aid, particularly if they are not strong swimmers. Such equipment can provide an additional layer of protection and instil confidence in the water.

6. **Buddy System:** Encourage your child to swim or engage in water activities with a buddy. Having a swimming companion ensures that they can watch out for each other, offer assistance if needed, and seek help in case of an emergency.
7. **Emergency Procedures:** Educate your child about emergency procedures, such as how to call for help, how to stay calm in stressful situations, and how to assist others in need. Knowledge of these procedures can be invaluable in the event of an incident.
8. **Weather Awareness:** Stay informed about weather conditions before venturing out to open water areas. Avoid swimming during storms or in adverse weather conditions, as they can pose significant risks. It is also crucial to be mindful of changing weather patterns and be prepared to seek shelter if necessary.

We kindly ask for your cooperation in reinforcing these safety measures with your child. Together, we can help create an environment where everyone can enjoy open water activities responsibly.

We appreciate your time and attention in reviewing this important information. Our school places a high priority on collaboration with parents to ensure that each child achieves their full potential and develops the skills necessary for success in today's world. By following these guidelines, you can ensure the safety and well-being of your children during the summer months.

If you have any questions or concerns related to the contents of this email or any aspect of your child's experience at our school, we encourage you to reach out to their designated Head of House in the first instance. They will be happy to discuss the matter with you and, if necessary, refer you to our safeguarding team for further support.

Yours sincerely



Mr J Till
Headteacher



Turves Green Boys' School
Northfield
Birmingham
West Midlands
B31 4BS



0121 483 2890



Turves Green Boys' School



turvesgreenboys



postbox@tgbs.co.uk



QR Codes for additional information and resources:



<https://firstaidforlife.org.uk/staying-safe-water/#:~:text=Always%20ensure%20you%20are%20in,supervise%20with%20any%20water%20play.>



<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/safety-on-our-waterways/water-safety-tips-for-parents>



<https://www.rlss.org.uk/pages/category/open-water-safety-tips>



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Birmingham
West Midlands
B31 4BS



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postbox@tgbs.co.uk

