

23 NOVEMBER 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Police and schools in the Borough are committed to working together to protect our young people from becoming victims of crime. West Midlands Police are sending you this letter to highlight the importance of talking to your child about road safety when coming to and from school. This is following multiple incidents of offenders on mopeds and motorbikes harassing students on their walk back home, as well as bicycles being stolen. Our ongoing work includes highlighting the dangers that are prevalent on the road and what young people can do to keep themselves safe.



Ensure you are aware of the route that your child takes to school. By using well-lit paths (given the darker nights), walking in groups and being mindful of their surroundings, they can avoid incidents from occurring. This is further cemented by avoiding alleyways and cut throughs, isolated paths that have no lighting and parks after day light hours. Make sure that they understand the importance of going directly to their destination, without stops or diversions. Advise them to avoid stepping into the road without checking for traffic, as well as to choosing safe places to cross and explain to them why.

Even if your child has reached adolescence, you should keep talking about road safety with them, and ensure that they know the importance of continuing to take great care when crossing the road, including putting away their phone and taking out any earphones when crossing the road. Remind them that they will be unable to hear traffic if they are listening to music through their earphones or see it properly if they are wearing a hood.

A key thing to remember is that visibility is a key issue all year round, all day long, whether children are walking or on their bike. However, over the autumn/winter months, it is especially important as the school day can start and end in twilight. Remember:

- Wear bright clothing during the day and reflective clothing or accessories after dark.
- Always choose routes and cross at places that are well-lit.
- Where possible, cross the road at a pedestrian crossing.
- Remind older children who travel by themselves about road safety and the additional hazards in autumn/winter (i.e. wet leaves, ice, etc.)
- Invest in a quality bike lock to deter thieves.

Yours sincerely,
Sergeant Windsor
Solihull Partnerships
West Midlands Police

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Huntington'.

Mr S Huntington
Principal