

Dear parents/carers

Important summer safety message from Salford City Council

The summer holidays are coming, lockdown is ending and we want children and young people to enjoy their summer holidays safely after such a challenging year.

We're pleased to say there are lots of free, safe activities for children and young people this summer and you can find details @Claremontandweaste or @Ordsallandlangworthy on Facebook.

Please remember and remind them about the dangers of jumping or swimming in open water such as rivers, reservoirs and Salford Quays.

Safety facts they may not appreciate:

- Cold water can kill. Rivers, reservoirs and the Quays are cold even on the hottest days.
- Jumping from any height into cold water automatically sends your body into shock; you can't help but gasp
- When you gasp you could get water into your lungs; if you jump from a bridge you go deeper in the water and the risk increases
- It only takes half a pint of water in the lungs for a full grown man to drown; children and young people are much more at risk
- You don't know what's under the surface; you could get caught or hurt and drown
- That's why people should never jump into cold, open water or swim outside supervised sessions with lifeguards. If you do you're relying on family/friends/members of the public to rescue you if you get into trouble.

Salford Quays

- Because of these dangers there is a Public Spaces Protection Order in place which makes it against the law to jump from bridges and/or swim in the Quays except during organised swimming sessions with lifeguards.
- The bridges are coated with anti-climb paint and monitored by CCTV. We will also have regular joint council/police safety patrols out and about. They will make young people aware of the dangers but if they choose to ignore that advice and are identified as jumping from any bridge they will be sent a warning letter with a home visit from the police.
- Last year 34 under 18s received a warning letter and home visit from the police; another seven have already been warned this year. Four adults received £100 fixed penalty notices for breaching the Public Spaces Protection Order.
- This year we have already issued seven warnings to young people who were identified by CCTV or by police and council patrols jumping from bridges or swimming.

The Quays is great to visit but we don't want your trip to end in tragedy.

Many people live and work at the Quays so anti-social behaviour and littering is just as upsetting for them as for people in other areas of Salford. It costs nothing to be kind and thoughtful so we can all enjoy our fantastic Quays.

Check out @Claremontandweaste or @Ordsallandlangworthy on Facebook for the latest activity updates and have a great, safe summer.