



Dear parent or carer,

Please talk to your child about water safety this summer

Our young people continue to lose their lives in inland waterways. Do you know what your children and young people are doing and whether water is involved?

As we approach the summer holidays, we are asking all parents and carers to have a direct conversation with their children about staying safe around open water.

Rivers, lakes, canals, reservoirs, quarries and other open water can look inviting in warm weather, but they can be extremely dangerous. Even strong swimmers can get into difficulty because of cold water shock, hidden objects, strong currents, sudden changes in depth and steep or slippery banks that make it hard to get out.

Please take a few minutes to watch the video and discuss the information with your child before the summer holidays:

- [Water safety for teenagers and young people | Canal & River Trust](#)

The link below has lots of water safety information for teenagers, including a 'have the conversation' toolkit:

- [Water Safety for Teenagers | Royal Life Saving Society UK](#)

These resources are designed for teenagers and young people. They can help start an honest conversation about the risks of open water, what can happen when people are with friends, and how to make safer choices even when there is pressure to join in.





Key messages to discuss with your child

- Jumping into open water can be fatal. It can be much colder, deeper and more dangerous than it looks.
- If friends are encouraging someone to go into the water, that pressure can put lives at risk. A good friend helps people stay safe.
- If you get into difficulty in the water, float on your back, keep your airway clear and call for help.
- If someone else is in trouble in the water, do not go in after them. Call 999 immediately. Ask for fire and rescue if inland, or the coastguard if at the coast.
- Remember: **phone, float, throw**. **Phone** 999, tell the person to **float**, and **throw** something that floats if it is safe to do so.
- Don't tamper with life-saving equipment or signage, they are there for everyone's safety

One simple line your child can use if they feel under pressure is: "I'm not risking it - let's do something else."

Please talk to your child before the holidays, especially if they are likely to spend time near water with friends. A short conversation now could help them make the right decision in the moment.

Thank you for your support in helping young people stay safe this summer.

Yours sincerely,
Karl Gibbons
Head of Prevention

Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, on behalf of the Greater Manchester Water Safety Strategic Partnership

