



Timbold Drive, Kents Hill Park, Milton Keynes, MK7 6BZ
Headteacher: Mr. James Pilgrim

22nd November 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

We have been made aware of separate incidents in which two pupils from a neighbouring school have been approached by strangers with a view to getting them into their car or van. The two incidents occurred recently in the Walton and Browns wood areas of Milton Keynes.

Whilst incidents of this nature are rare, it is vital to ensure pupils are aware of their personal safety whilst travelling to and from school and whilst in their local community.

As part of form time today tutors will be providing all pupils with advice on how to keep themselves safe.

Staying safe

Street crime is often opportunistic, so making yourself less of a target, moving with purpose and being aware of your surroundings will go a long way to keeping you safe.

Be prepared

You are less likely to be targeted if you look confident. Move with purpose and try to be aware of your surroundings. Be assertive. From the moment you step out onto the street in the morning, look assertive and act and walk with confidence. This will always make you appear in control and much less vulnerable.

Be aware

Using a mobile phone, whether making a call or texting or listening to loud music while walking all affect your awareness of your surroundings. So, don't do it. Keep your valuables including your mobile phone and other devices hidden. Remember, out of sight, out of mind. It is also important to remember – **if you're threatened with violence, don't risk your personal safety.** Property can be replaced, you can't.

Safety in numbers

When walking or cycling home from school, walk or cycle with others and do not approach any vehicle that may stop to ask for directions or approach the vehicle for any other reason. Under no circumstances should you ever get into a stranger's car. Try to travel with people you know and, where possible, stick to routes and forms of transport that others are using and avoid shortcuts in lonely places.

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Go against the flow

When walking on the pavement, always face oncoming traffic if you can, as it will make it far more difficult for thieves on two wheelers to ride up from behind and snatch your property. But still also be aware of anyone approaching from ahead of you.

Make a plan

And stick to it. First off, discuss with friends what to do if something were to go wrong. Agree on a backup plan and look out for one another.

Trust your instincts

Try to avoid walking or cycling alone in the dark in places such as parks and side streets or any unfamiliar environments. If you do have to walk, stick to busy places with good lighting and don't walk alone. **If you think you're being followed, go to the busiest place you can find or knock on a door. Then call the police.**

Cycling

If you cycle to school ensure that your bike is roadworthy and that you have working lights. It is also important to have bright clothing and a cycle helmet.

I would be grateful if you would reinforce this message at home with your child.

Yours sincerely

Mark McGarvie

Assistant Headteacher, Curriculum and Timetable
Designated Safeguarding Lead

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