

Monday 8th June 2026

Water Safety Awareness

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will no doubt have seen the recent heart-breaking news regarding the tragic accidents and loss of young lives in open bodies of water across the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue region. Our thoughts and deepest sympathies are with the families and communities affected by these devastating events. As a family of academies located close to open water, we know all too well how tempting these sites can look, and we are entirely committed to proactively teaching our children how to stay safe.

We want to reassure you that water safety is not just a seasonal talking point for us; it is actively built into our Personal Development and PSHE curriculum. In light of the recent tragedies, we are intensifying our efforts to support our pupils and families by raising immediate awareness.

To ensure every child understands how to protect themselves, we are taking the following actions next week:

- **Whole-Academy Assembly:** All pupils will take part in a dedicated water safety awareness assembly on Monday to understand the core rules of being near water.
- **Classroom Lessons:** Next week, every class will receive a tailored, age-appropriate lesson led directly by their class teacher to unpack these safety messages in a supportive environment.

We ask that you help reinforce this learning at home by discussing the basic Water Safety Code with your children:

Stop and Think: Look out for hidden hazards like strong currents, sudden deep drop-offs, and cold-water shock.

Stay Together: Children must never go near open water, such as rivers, canals, or ponds without a trusted adult.

Float to Live: If they ever fall in accidentally, they should lean back like a starfish, stay calm, and float.

Call for Help: If a friend is in trouble, they must never jump in. They should shout for help and call 999 immediately.

Supporting Your Child's Learning at Home

To help you continue this vital conversation at home, we highly recommend exploring the following free, interactive resources with your child. They are specifically designed to make water safety engaging and easy to understand for primary-aged children:

Watch Together: Visit the RNLI Youth Education Hub to watch short child-friendly animated videos, that clearly demonstrate the "Float to Live" technique and highlight hidden water dangers.

<https://rnli.org/youth-education>

Play and Learn: Explore the Canal & River Trust's Learning Resources which feature downloadable activity sheets, water safety games and interactive quizzes you can complete together.

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers/schools/classroom-resources/learning-bundles/water-safety>

Know Your Local Area: Read through the specific regional advice on the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Water Safety Page to learn more about the exact risks present in our local South Yorkshire waterways, reservoirs, and canals.

<https://www.syfire.gov.uk/safety-advice/water-safety-and-drowning-prevention>

Watch videos and learn about staying safe when in, on or near the water, and find out more about volunteering and the work of the RNLI:

<https://rnli.org/youth-education/education-resources/videos>

Taking just ten minutes to look at these links together will directly reinforce the lessons our teachers will be delivering in class next week.

Thank you for your continued partnership in keeping our children and community safe. If you have any questions, or require any further information, please feel free to contact school.

Kind Regards,

Miss Pownall
PSHE Champion and Personal Development Leader