

ADULTS

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Dear Parent,

Keeping children safe around water this summer

As we approach the summer holidays, many families will spend more time outdoors visiting rivers, lakes, reservoirs, canals, beaches and other open water areas.

We are asking for your help to share some important water safety messages with your children. Open water can be enjoyable, but it can also be very dangerous.

Sadly, 202 people lost their lives in accidental water-related incidents across the UK in 2025. As the weather gets warmer and children spend more time outside, it is important that everyone knows how to stay safe around water.

Key water safety messages

Please share the following messages with your children:

- never jump into open water. Even on a hot day, the water can be dangerously cold and cause cold water shock. There may also be hidden hazards beneath the surface.

- if you get into difficulty in the water, remember **float to live**.
Try to stay calm, lean back, keep your airway clear, and gently move your hands and legs to stay afloat until help arrives.
- if someone else is in trouble in the water, remember **phone, float, throw**:
 - phone 999 and ask for the fire service if inland, or the coastguard if at the coast
 - encourage them to float on their back and stay calm
 - throw them something that floats if you can do so safely
 - never enter the water to attempt a rescue

Find out more

For more information and advice about staying safe around water, visit:

- [Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service water safety campaign resources](#)
- [RNLI float to live guidance and resources](#)
- [Canal and River Trust water safety information and advice](#)

Thank you for helping raise awareness of water safety and keeping children and young people safe this summer.

Yours sincerely,



James Mallion
Director of Public Health



Emlyn Wright
Assistant Director – Education and Inclusion