



The Ripley Academy

A member of the East Midlands Education Trust

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Dear Parent/Carer

Staying Safe over the Summer

At The Ripley Academy we take great pride in our responsibility to work in partnership parents and carers in order to ensure the safety of our students at all times. We all know that the long summer holidays can sometimes be a worrying time for parents/carers as your children have more time to engage in risky behaviour.

As the weather hopefully gets hotter, children can forget to wear sunscreen during the day and may need a gentle reminder of this to avoid sunburn. Drinking water and remembering to stay hydrated during the hotter days can also be a challenge to children who like to be out and about with friends.

It is likely that some children will spend more time on the internet or gaming during the holidays when they have substantially more time to do so. Where possible, talk to your child about their internet use. The holidays are a perfect time to talk about what they do on the internet and this may give you some reassurance. Different children will have different amounts of knowledge, risk-taking and resilience. Talk with them about what they like to do online, where they go and who they talk to.

The most important thing to remember is to put online networking into a real life context. For example, would you let your children to be in a crowd of unknown adults who may be swearing, using sexual innuendos or other things inappropriate for children to see and hear?

- Consider the online games they are playing and what age the other players may be
- Do you know the age-rating of those games? Are your children playing 18-rated games such as Grand Theft Auto and Call of Duty?
- To find out what a game is like before you buy it for your child, you could go onto YouTube and do a search. It is likely there will be videos of people playing the game.
- What social networking apps are they using? What are they sharing and who with?
- Would you be happy with all of this in the real world?

Please find attached the latest guidance regarding the Snapchat app which is used by a large proportion of students. It is vital that the settings are changed on your child's profile otherwise this app lets other users know their exact location.

The Ripley Academy, Peasehill, Ripley, Derbyshire, DE5 3JQ.

Water Safety

Make sure your children are aware of the dangers of swimming in ponds and rivers. The temperature of inland water does not vary much throughout the year. The water in Britain is still very cold in the spring and summer; people can quickly become affected by the cold, putting themselves into difficulties. Swimming should always be confined to a supervised pool with life guards.

Road Safety

The age group most 'at risk' of being involved in an accident are children aged between 5 –14 years of age, with the highest casualty rates occurring with children aged 12. As a minimum please ensure your children know how to cross the road safely, have taken a cycling proficiency course and always wear a seat belt when travelling in a car. All cyclists should wear a properly fitted cycle helmet.

Rail Safety

Network Rail are asking parents to help them explain and make clear the dangers of trespassing on the railway to their children, and to help them keep their children safe, by asking them to stay away from the tracks, especially during the lighter evenings and school holidays.

The railway is extremely dangerous and along with other hazards such as electrification of the lines it poses potentially fatal consequences to anyone who trespasses. Apart from being very dangerous, it is illegal to trespass on the railway track. Too many people's lives are lost or ruined because they decided to take risks on the tracks.

Emotional Wellbeing/Vulnerability

If you are concerned about any young person in respect of their emotional wellbeing or you feel that they are vulnerable to harm or abuse and you are uncertain whether they are receiving support you may wish to contact one of the agencies listed. Many of the agencies have established links and will ensure that your concern or query is directed to the appropriate agency.

- Call Derbyshire (Derbyshire County Council Social Services) 01629 593 193
- Starting Point 01629 535353
- Child Line 0800 1111
- Online issues or exploitation contact Child Exploitation and Online Protection Agency (CEOP)
<https://www.ceop.police.uk/Ceop-Report/>
- Suspicion that a young person is at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation- contact Safe and Sound 01332 362120
- Advice, support and options if you, or someone you love, goes missing or runs away- 24 Hour Anonymous Helpline Text or Call 116 000
- Radicalisation/Extremist behaviour see advice on:

<http://www.derbyshire.police.uk/Safety-advice/Terrorism/Prevent-Team/Prevent-Team.aspx>

Or contact:

Police 101 (999 in an emergency)

Crimestoppers UK 0800 555 111

Wishing yourself and your child(ren) a safe and happy summer break and we look forward to seeing you all again in September.

Yours sincerely,



Miss J Scattergood
Deputy Headteacher