



# WMFS

## West Midlands Fire Service

**Date:** June 2026  
**Our Ref:** MI92805261/EF/AMH

Dear Headteacher

The tragic loss of a teenager at Kingsbury Water Park over the Bank Holiday weekend and several other incidents across the country has highlighted the dangers of open water, especially for young people during periods of hot weather.

In the West Midlands our main sources of water danger are from canals, rivers, lakes and ponds but your pupils might be visiting the beach over the summer period.

Given the summer holidays are only a half term away, we urge you to pass on the safety messages to pupils through any written communications, during assemblies and in any wider planned communications to parents before the end of term.

Our website provides useful water safety statistics and resources [WMFS - Water Safety](#).

We also highly recommend the resources provided by the RNLI tailored to different age groups [RNLI Education Resources For Young People](#).

We do still have availability for next half term for our water safety programmes and can provide appropriate WMFS Water Safety Education for your key stages.

- For Reception we have “People Who Help Us” which introduces children to the job of a firefighter, including water safety.
- In Year 4 our operational fire crews will visit school to deliver SPARKs. The 1-hour session covers water, fire and road safety.
- Our Interactive education centre “Safeside” provides a memorable school trip covering a wide range of safety messages, including water safety, aimed at Year 5
- Our Prevention Practitioners deliver 1-hour sessions to groups of KS3 and 4 pupils and this includes a session on water safety.

Details of how to access these services and other education resources can be found on our website at [WMFS - Education Services](#).

We want all children and young people to have a fun over the summer period, but rest assured, West Midlands Fire Service will be here in an emergency, should we be called upon.

Kind regards,

Emily Fernandez  
Assistant Director of Prevention