



PC 20043 Darren-Lee Fletcher
West Midlands Police Headquarters
Lloyd House
PO Box 52
Colmore Circus Queensway
Birmingham
B4 6NQ

Direct Telephone:
Switchboard: 101
Internal:
Email: darren.fletcher@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk
Our Reference:

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Dear Parents / Carers

Ref: Student Safety

As we begin a new school year, it is now an appropriate time to remind our young people of the dangers of engaging and conversing with strangers, particularly with the darker nights fast approaching.

This is not to be alarmist, but more to refresh our young people about their personal safety.

Whilst we acknowledge that a vast majority of our young people will recognise strangers, and the risks they pose, there are concerns that strangers are using more convincing methods to entice young people into engaging with them.

Strangers are defined as somebody who is not known to a person, and stranger danger is defined as somebody attempting to engage a person in conversation with a view to gaining control over them and their movements.

We also acknowledge what we call "safe strangers", and these are recognised as, but not limited to, Police staff, teachers and school staff, other emergency service workers (Ambulance and Fire crews) or any other authoritative person who is recognised as a trustworthy individual.

To ensure the safety of our students at all times, we advise the following measures be taken, especially when travelling to or from school:

- If possible, arrange to be met or collected by a trusted adult. This could be a family member or family friend, or the parent or family member of one of your school friends from school.
- Do not have valuable items readily on show, i.e mobile phones, jewellery, headphones, watches.
- Try and stay on main arterial roads, with good street lighting where there are other people present, and do not travel down isolated roads or pathways.
- Do not walk with headphones in, and be aware of your surroundings and the people around you.

In the unlikely event that you are approached by a stranger, shout for help as loudly as you can to alert people nearby that you may be in jeopardy, and run as quickly as you can to a place of safety and call 999.

A place of safety can be back to school, a shop or supermarket or the house of family or friends.



DO NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES ENGAGE WITH THE STRANGER AND CREATE AS MUCH DISTANCE BETWEEN YOU AND THEM AS YOU CAN AND AS QUICKLY AS YOU CAN

Again, this is not an alarmist message, simply a timely reminder between Police and our school communities as we embark on our new school year.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darren-Lee Fletcher', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

PC 20043 Darren-Lee Fletcher
Hodge Hill Constituency Schools based Police Officer

