

An average of 328 UK and Irish Citizens lose their life to accidental drowning EVERY YEAR and many more have non-fatal experiences, sometimes suffering life-changing injuries. 63% of the children that have lost their lives to drowning in the past five years were teenagers.

Safeguarding Alert

Water Safety

As we are approaching the summer holidays, and hopefully continued warmer weather, there is an increased risk of children drowning.

Each year there is a spike in accidental drownings occurring in June, July and August.

Data from the National Water Safety Forum (NWSF) showed that May 2024 saw the most accidental water-related fatalities, with 193 people dying in the UK in total. Inland waterways accounted for 61 per cent of the deaths.

"We are urging parents to stay vigilant in, on and around water, both at home and when spending time outdoors and to have the water safety conversation with their children. We want to avoid any tragedies and any more families going through the heartache of losing a loved one. With the right education, accidental drownings are avoidable. We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer."

Matt Croxall, Charity Director at RLSS UKAs

A total of 84% of the accidental water deaths in the UK last year were male, with inland waters such as rivers, canals, lakes, reservoirs and quarries accounting for the majority of incidents.

SLSGB are already seeing high intervention numbers in 2025 in quarter 1 compared to 2024 and with combined information on this year for coastal water temperatures being warmer than normal for this time of year after a long period of warm weather and members of the public entering the water without understanding the risks, concerns are being raised. What to do when going for a swim

- Swim at a lifeguarded beach
- Look for the Red and Yellow flags
- Swim with a buddy
- Take your time entering the water -Cold Water Shock can take away your ability to swim and survive!
- Learn how to float – if you get in difficult 'float to live' (head and ears back, scull gently with arms and legs)
- Know what to do if you see someone in trouble

Before we break up for the summer holiday, form tutors will be showing all our students a video on drowning prevention. Please find below a useful resource for you to use when discussing with your child at home.

www.rlss.org.uk/Pages/Category/water-safety-information

