



At least 15 people have died in water-related incidents during the hot spell across the UK in the past couple of weeks, when temperatures have reached record highs. Recent figures from the National Water Safety Forum show there were 202 accidental water-related fatalities across the UK in 2025.

Safeguarding

Water Safety

Due to the recent devastating deaths over the half term holiday, we wanted to raise awareness with our student's, parents and carers around the dangers of open water swimming. We have also been made aware of a number of our students swimming in Manor Pool at weekends and in the holiday.

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.

Drowning deaths among 13-17-year-olds have increased an alarming 67% between 2020-2022 and 2023-2025.
Source: NCMD

Teenagers and young adults often take risks around rivers, lakes, canals, reservoirs, quarries and other inland and coastal waters, especially in groups. Most teenagers - especially males - don't fully recognise the risks they're taking.

Risky behaviours teenagers commonly take around open water:

- Peer pressure activities
- Jumping or diving into unknown water
- "Tombstoning" from bridges, walls and jetties
- Swimming in cold or fast-moving water
- Drinking alcohol near or in water
- Using inflatables or makeshift rafts
- Running or messing around on slippery banks
- Entering water to "rescue" friends

SLSGB are already seeing high intervention numbers in 2026 in quarter 1 compared to 2025 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*

As we lead up to 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



Summer WATER SAFETY

To enjoy the water safely and make the right call...

- ENTER SLOWLY AND CAREFULLY
- STAY WITHIN REACH
- ALWAYS BE SUPERVISED

In an emergency... CALL 999

IF YOU'RE IN TROUBLE FLOAT AND CALL FOR HELP

ALWAYS FOLLOW THE WATER SAFETY CODE

Whenever you are around water:

- STOP AND THINK**
Take time to assess your surroundings. Look for the dangers and always research local signs and advice.
- STAY TOGETHER**
When around water always go with friends or family. Swim at a lifeguarded venue.

In an emergency:

- CALL 999**
Ask for the Fire and Rescue Service when inland and the Coastguard if at the coast. Don't enter the water to rescue.
- FLOAT**
Fall in or become tired - stay calm, float on your back and call for help. Throw something that floats to somebody that has fallen in.

Enjoy Water Safety

Learn basic lifesaving and CPR skills. Visit www.rlss.org.uk