



SAFETY ADVICE FOR STUDENTS TRAVELLING TO AND FROM READING SCHOOL

Personal Safety

Safety on the Street

Advice from the Metropolitan Police states that 'street crime is often opportunistic. Therefore, making yourself less of a target, moving with purpose and being aware of your surroundings can go a long way to keeping safe whilst travelling to and from school.

Be prepared

Plan your route in advance. Tell someone where you are going. If you can travel with friends then do.

Be assertive

From the moment you step out onto the street in the morning, look assertive and act and walk with confidence. This will make you appear in control and much less vulnerable.

Be aware

It should be noted that using a mobile phone, whether making a call or texting or listening to loud music, all affect your awareness of your surroundings.

Hide it

Keep your valuables including your mobile phone and other devices hidden.

Trust your instincts

Try to avoid walking alone in the dark, using side streets or any unfamiliar environment. If you do have to walk, stick to busy places where there is a lot of activity and good lighting.

Safety in numbers

Try and travel with people you know and, where possible, stick to routes and forms of transport that others are using and avoid shortcuts in lonely places.

Crossing the Road

Statistically the most dangerous aspect of 'the street' is crossing the road. We would like to urge parents to discuss with their sons the importance of being vigilant when crossing the road. This is especially valid given the darker conditions when travelling to and from school in the winter.

Road crashes are a major cause of injury among the young nationally and arguably the risk rises as children reach secondary school age and have more independence.

Advice from Brake, the Road Safety Charity states: 'Look out for yourself and your friends when out on foot and bike. It is easy to get distracted by your phone or by friends, but you need to be alert to traffic. Put you phone away and take your earphones out when crossing the road. Do not trust that drivers will spot you and be able to stop in time. Many drivers go too fast and do not pay enough attention so anything you can do to protect yourself is a good thing.'

Resources:

Crimestoppers: <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

THINK!: www.think.direct.gov.uk/resource-centre/ and www.think.direct.gov.uk/education/

Brake: <http://www.brake.org.uk/>