

SWANLEA SCHOOL

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Executive Head: Ms B Landers BA (Hons) MA

10th March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

re: Keeping Safe

We hope that you and your families are well, and may we extend a Ramadan Mubarak to those families that are fasting during this special month of Ramadan.

We understand that many of our families use the month of Ramadan to attend special congregational prayers in the evening, called Taraweeh prayers.

We have been asked by the local police to share some advice with parents and carers about keeping safe when out and about in the community during these evening prayers. Sadly, the police have seen an increase in anti-social behaviour and street crime, with young people in particular being targeted. The police advice, if you are going out in the late evening, includes the following:

Travelling in the evening:

- Take the most direct route when travelling from one place to another, sticking to recognised and well-lit roads;
- **Travel with a responsible adult;**
- Make sure phones are charged in case you need to communicate;
- Avoid displaying expensive items - latest phones, headphones, watches are commonly targeted items;
- Maintain awareness of your surroundings - don't walk with headphones in, so you can keep yourself safe, if approached;
- Agree a time that your child will return home and call / text to make sure they are well;
- Consider making use of tracking apps such as the Apple 'find my phone' software.

If you child is approached by a stranger(s) or is involved in an incident tell them:

- Not to get into a confrontation, even if this means handing over their possessions – their safety is more important;
- Try to remember any details of the person, e.g. clothing, distinctive features, approximate age etc;
- Find a safe place, e.g. a shop and if possible, arrange to be collected by a family member;
- Report the incident to the police as soon as possible via the 101 or 999 service.

We have been assured that the police are currently engaging in active operations in the local area to try and tackle this issue and prevent further incidents, including increasing the number of patrols by community officers. However, it remains important that as a community you do everything you can to keep yourself safe.

We would encourage you to take some time to talk about this letter with your children and of course do contact us at the school if you wish to discuss any aspect of the advice and guidance that we have shared.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Miah'.

Kabir Miah
Head of School

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Landers'.

Brenda Landers
Executive Headteacher